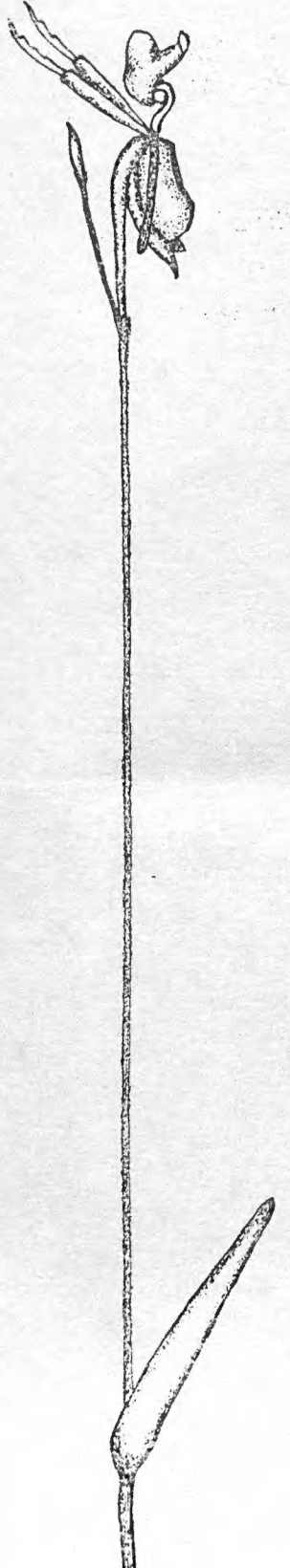


JANUARY, 1982.

ISSUE No. 217.



Latrobe Valley Naturalist

Protect and enjoy

50c.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne for transmission by Post as a Periodical Category B.

COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday January 22nd
Members might up to 10 slides from
members to be shown.

No Excursion

Campout at Licola

January 30, 31, February 1.

Details in November issue and on Page 3 of this issue.

Courses at Rotamah Island Bird Observatory

February 12-14

Game Bird Identification

Contact Warden Phone (051) 566 398

OCTOBER EXCURSION TO THE HEATHLANDS.

Although it was necessary to change our October excursion from Mullundung Forest to the Loch Sport Road, we met, as originally planned at Gormandale, in case some members did not know of the changed plan. Though this was a roundabout way to the Loch Sport area it gave us opportunities to see more flowers. In many places between Traralgon and Bairnsdale Wedding Bush and Silky Tea-tree were in abundant flower.

Our first stop after the meeting place was on the willung road, where small grassland flowers kept us happily exploring for some time. Patches of bluebells and tall mauve-flowered chocolate Lilies were sprinkled with other flowers; the white rather daisy-like Prickly Starwort, low clusters of Small riceflower, and three kinds of brown and yellow peas Chaffy Bush - pea with tufts of golden brown, and Creeping Bossiaea with larger solitary yellow and red flowers trailed amongst the thin grass, while silky Parrot-pea stood erect, its browns and yellows more varied. The almost inch-wide velvety yellow discs of Curling Everlastings were surrounded by paler yellow curled bracts, and a whole flock of Wiry Buttons stood near them only about one quarter of their size, and without the fringe of bracts.

There were a few honey-scented white Milkmaids and a few late red flowers of Running Postman amongst their mat of clover-like leaves.

Our next stop was to see one of the few Aboriginal Canoe Trees of this district. The outline of the removed bark was clearly visible though new bark is slowly growing inward reducing its size. One quick-eyed member found a delicate green and crimson Green-comb Spider-orchid growing near the tree.

After skirting pine plantations and the Holey Hill State Park we turned into Limepit road and passed our early wildflower sanctuary, now much overgrown, but stopped farther on at a garden of white, pink and yellow with some bushes of Red Correa still hung with scarlet bells. The white flowers were Silky Tea-tree, Wedding Bush, and shining Peppermint, with occasional pink flowered bushes of the Teatree, and four species of Guinea-flower shone golden, with wide open cups. The largest was Twiggy Guinea-flower with slender inch-long leaves and delicate flowers. Erect and Bundled Guinea-flowers both stood erect, the first with rather dull leaves, the second with bundles or clusters of bright mossy green foliage, while Prickly Guinea-flower with small bright flowers was almost matlike.

Miles farther on we stopped for lunch where a forest road in a pine plantation permitted parking off the main road. It was pleasantly shady but with only bracken and weeds under the pines, apart from a thicket of Burgan where more open planting let in enough light.

Continuing eastward, in the afternoon we stopped near Dutson, at the roadside where Sticky Boronia was so beautiful some years ago. It is still there, though less abundant than it was because trees and shrubs have grown up, and it needs light.

OCTOBER EXCURSION TO THE HEATHLANDS.

contd...

But late though it was (Sticky Boronia flowers in August and September) we found many bright little pink flowers. Another feature of that road the yellow Aotus with rods of pea-flowers, was also nearly over, but tall Heath Parrot-pea with graceful branches and narrow leaves, was just beginning to open its light clusters of brown and yellow flowers, while the big bushes of Red Correa alone were worth stopping for. They were several feet high and wide with hundreds of scarlet bells.

We stopped only once more, some distance west of Loch Sport, and that was the climax of the day. We had been promised flowers "like the Garden of Eden", and surely they must have been as beautiful as in that garden of innocence. Seeing the first rosy bush I thought it was Tea-tree- the deepest pink I had ever seen, for I did not know that pink Fringe-myrtle grew there. We passed more and more of the pink flowered bushes, now obviously Fringe-myrtle, first in twos and threes, then in thickets and hedges, interspersed with Saw Banksia and yellow and brown peas and the relatively dwarf Shrubby She-oak with its crimson female and golden male flowers and tight little grey cones.

An observant member of the Bush Walker's Club, several of whom accompanied us, found a Purplish Beard-orchid and we all admired its veined petals and red-purple beard.

The tall growth was all on one side of the road at that point. The other side had been cleared for some distance from the road edge, and a carpet of seedlings had sprung up, from a few inches to about two feet high. They were all in bright flower amongst the brown sedges. In that intricate pattern of colour there was clear blue of Dampiera, Fringemyrtle varying from pale to deep pink, more yellow and brown peas; blue-grey foliage and white bells flecked with pink and honey-scented Daphne Heath, cream stars of Tufted Blue-lily (often deep blue, but here all cream) and some Red Correa, and wooly grey Xanthosia. Amongst all these was Pine Heath, its short but pine like crowded foliage studded with shiny butter-yellow pointed bells.

In delighted groups we explored the garden of colour, gathering at last for afternoon tea before we went home by different ways after very hearty thanks had been given to Mr Lubcke, our leader, warmly seconded by one of our bush-walking friends and to Mr and Mrs Thompson who had provided lists of the more outstanding flowers we should see, with short descriptions of characters by which they could be recognised.

Though this was mainly a wildflower outing we did see and hear birds, though perhaps not as many as usual. Willie Wagtails and Grey Fantails enlivened the Dutson stop - there were Ibis and sulphur-crowned Cockatoos on the pastureland, Rufous whistlers sang in the trees, and in the forest behind the Fringe-myrtle "Garden of Eden" three species of cuckoos called incessantly.

Jean Galbraith.

OCTOBER EXCURSION TO THE HEATHLANDS.

Scientific names of plants in order of reference.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wedding Bush | <i>Ricinocarpos pinifolius</i> |
| Silky Teatree | <i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i> |
| Naked Bluebell | <i>Wahlenbergia gymnoclada</i> |
| Chocolate Lily | <i>Dichopogon strictus</i> |
| Prickly Starwort | <i>Stellaria pungens</i> |
| Small riceflower | <i>Pimelea humilis</i> |
| Chaffy Bush-pea | <i>Pultenaea paleacea</i> |
| Creeping Bossiaca | <i>Bossiaea prostrata</i> |
| Showy Parrot-pea | <i>Dillwynia sericea</i> |
| Curling Everlasting | <i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i> |
| Wiry Buttons | <i>Leptorhynchos tenuifolius</i> |
| Milkmaids | <i>Burchardia umbellata</i> |
| Running Postman | <i>Kennedia prostrata</i> |
| Green-comb Spider-orchid | <i>Caladenia dilatata</i> |
| Red Correa | <i>Correa reflexa</i> |
| Twiggy Guinea-flower | <i>Hebbertia virgata</i> |
| Erect Guinea-flower | <i>H. stricta</i> |
| Bundled Guinea-flower | <i>H. fasciculata</i> |
| Prickly Guinea-flower | <i>H. acicularis</i> |
| Aotus | <i>Aotus ericoides</i> |
| Heath Parrot-pea | <i>Dillwynia glaberrima</i> |
| Fringe-myrtle | <i>Calytrix tetragona</i> |
| Saw Banksia | <i>Banksia serrata</i> |
| Shrubby sheoak | <i>Casuarina nana</i> |
| Purplish Beard-orchid | <i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> |
| Blue Dampiera | <i>Dampiera stricta</i> |
| Daphne Heath | <i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i> |
| Tufted Blue-lily | <i>Stypandra caespitosa</i> |
| Pine Heath | <i>Astroloma pinifolia</i> |
| Woolly Wanthosia | <i>Xanthosia pilosa</i> |

LICOLA CANPOUT.

January 30, 31 February 1st.

Travel to Licola, Do Hotcross bridge at Licola. Follow MT Howitt Road at right hand side of Macalister River from Licola, for 7 miles or 10 Km. Look for L.V.F.N.C. sign on left hand side of road and a brown iron boom gate. Buildings lower down in bush. Camp will be open from Friday afternoon January 29th.

Bring sleeping bags and pillows. Sleeping quarters have cubicles with 2, 3 or 4 beds in them. We hope you have a good weekend.

Full details in November NATURALIST

Best Wishes to Mrs Lyndon who is presently recuperating from an operation. We hope she is home by the time this issue goes to print. We wish you a speedy recovery from all L.V.F.N.C Members.

WEEDS AND WILDFLOWERS.

The guest speaker for our meeting on 27th November 1981 was Mr Fricke who lives on the Mornington peninsula. He commenced by recalling early memories of Yallourn in 1938 when much of the natural flora and fauna had not been disturbed, but now it is all gone, and things are getting worse, for even as he spoke, every minute somewhere in the world 75 acres (30.3 Ha) of forest are destroyed, one person dies from a pesticide and a whale dies in agony. Our biggest environmental disturbances are caused by pollution and over population.

Mr Fricke explained that when the early settlers came to the Mornington Peninsula it was mainly covered with Banksias, Melaleucas and Casuarinas with smaller wild flowers growing as a carpet underneath amid the native grasses. However the early lime-burners used these bigger trees for their fires and as young plants grew they in turn were eaten by the rabbits. For some reason the rabbits did not like the ti-tree (*Leptospermum*) so that is why they have flourished when other things have almost died out.

Then came the developers who divided the area into minute blocks, far too small to retain much of the natural environment, followed closely by the holiday makers and vandals who introduced foreign grasses, "weeds" and unwanted pets. Introduced grasses grow very matted and take over, whereas our native grasses are very delicate and slender. No match for the newcomers. This in turn increases the fire hazard creating further upset to the balance of nature.

Some introduced plants will not grow under our fairly harsh conditions but others just thrive and take over, killing out all the natural growth.

There are 154 weeds growing on the Mornington Peninsula, 25 of which are very bad, and the worst by far is the Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) which comes from South Africa and even up to 30 years ago it was not thought to be a problem. Unfortunately birds (particularly blackbirds) and foxes are the chief spreaders of this weed over large areas. The boneseed plant will live up to 20 years, grow to 1.3 metres tall, and produce 50,000 viable seeds every year. A formidable weed indeed.

The reason for settlers bringing a lot of these seeds to Australia in the first place was their need to have familiar things around them. They also missed the changing colours of the different seasons and grew tired of the gums which lacked in brilliance and variance of colour.

Mr Fricke then showed us some beautiful slides which illustrated the changing seasons in England and Europe. Many magnificent lakes and high mountains of which we have very few in Australia. Of monuments, old buildings, castles and palaces some many centuries old. However he also showed us some slides of buildings which although they had been reduced to rubble during the war, have been rebuilt back to their original state as near as possible.

WEEDS AND WILDFLOWERS.

contd...

We then moved on to slides of our beautiful Australian scenery, our native flora, fauna and insects. If these were ever destroyed they will be lost forever as no amount of human endeavour can bring back plants which have been totally destroyed. We must try to keep the weeds (foreign plants) under control or they will take over and eliminate our native flora forever. Our own natural flora is far more precious than anything we will find overseas.

Jean Peterson.LABERTOUCHE EXCURSION.

Seven cars assembled at the Labertouche turn off for a wildflower excursion under the leadership of Mr and Mrs Brooks.

We travelled along the Labertouche North Road and stopped at a cleared area under S.E.C. power lines where flowers were still blooming. There were not so many flowers as on a previous excursion two weeks earlier with V.F.N.C. members. However we did see the Bent Goodenia G. geniculata standing erect but would bend over when the flowers died.

There were Dampiera stricta, Dusty Miller (Spyridium pavaefolium), Wiry Bauera (B. rubioides) and several Onion Orchids in the area. On the previous visit I had seen a large patch of Sun Orchids in bud, but they were not to be seen this day, not even a late one in bloom.

At the next stop we saw many Flying Duck-orchids (Caleana major) which is our own Club emblem. It was a thrill to see so many together in various stages of opening and closing. Also one Thelymitra media and the bud of a Hyacinth Orchid (Dipodium punctatum). Violets and Nodding Blue-lily were blooming and the Teatree (Leptospermum juniperinum) was a picture.

Continuing along the forest road with ferns on either side and the shrubs of Boronia muelleri - Labertouche form but well past its prime but still some nice patches of pink in the gullies. At the lunch area the rough Star-hair (Astrotricha asperifolia), Fairy Fan-flower (Scaevola aemula), Handsome Flat-pea (Platylobium formosum), Furze Hakea (H. ulcina), Elderberry Panax and Screw Fern were seen.

Much further along we walked in one of the many lovely fern gullies where Maidenhair Fern and a very old Ausrral King-fern with a very good trunk and the uncommon Common Filmy-fern and Small Fork-fern which are found growing on the trunks of Treeferns. The rare Jungle Bristle-fern growing on Rough Treeferns were of great interest here.

Further along we saw Grevillea barklyana with masses of pink brush-
es. on these larger trees, also many other species especially the Victorian Christmas Bush (Prostanthera lasiantha) with masses of white flowers. We stopped for afternoon at the top of "Gentle Annie" and then found our way home through Neerim South passing some beautiful patches of Sun Orchids near the roadside.

We all had a perfect day thanks to our leaders Jack and Nancy Brooks.

Iris Peterson.

VEGETATION CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH PHYTOPHTHERA CINNAMOMI.

A recent article by Gretna Weste of the School of Botany, University of Melbourne (Australian Journal of Botany, 1981, 29 :261-276) describes her study of the effects of Phytophthora cinnamomi on vegetation changes in the Wilson's Promontory National Park.

Affected areas of sclerophyll shrubby woodland are changing to an open sedge woodland. The major differences contributing to the change in plant communities associated with the presence of P.cinnamomi are the reduction in trees (Banksia serrata, Eucalyptus obliqua), the change of dominant shrub from Xanthorrhoea australis to Leptospermum concavum, the failure of regeneration of many species and the take over by sedges. Such changes in the number and frequency of species is the result of differential susceptibility of the species present to attack by the pathogen. Species resistant or tolerant of the disease persist while susceptible species decline in health and numbers. While the author stresses the need for more research into the long term effects of the disease on the plant community, she has observed a decline in pathogen disease potential following disease and it seems likely that a cycle may occur as follows.

Disease -- decline of susceptible host ---decrease of pathogen ---
increase in susceptible host --- increase of pathogen ---disease.

It is noted that the disease effects are probably related to complex soil-microbe-root interactions with the example that the proteoid roots of Banksia and Isopogon are observed to wither rapidly with the advent of P.cinnamomi.

P.Smethurst.

SILVEREYE MIGRATION.

Sunday May 10th was one of those days which excursionists don't anticipate when they are making up the list of the year's outings. We were scheduled to visit the beach in the vicinity of Arch Rock, between Tarwin Lower and Cape Liptrap. And it was wet with a howling gale thrown in for good measure. Out on the beach, when we emerged from the warm shelter of the teatree, we could hardly stand against the wind force. At intervals driving rain livened things up. Out in this no-mans land the air was suddenly full of the twitterings of birds, the unmistakable voices of many Silvereyes on the wing, apparently coming in from the sea. As the flocks lost height over the beach the individuals became visible before they dropped down into the sheltering shrubbery that lined the creek. For some minutes the migration continued before we too were forced to run for shelter. Numbers we could not estimate, nor how far up and down the beach the birds were coming in. Silvereyes are known to migrate from Tasmania to the mainland in thousands but this is the first time I have witnessed such an occasion. It was positively eerie to watch these tiny creatures literally blowing in over the wild sea. The time would have been about 11am. in the forenoon.

Ellen Lyndon.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows

| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O. Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458233 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL. |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.N.A. Hall. BAIRNSDALE. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

Hon Editor. Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Rd.
Newborough 3828.

FEBRUARY, 1982.
ISSUE No. 218.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.
MEETING.

Friday February 19th
ANNUAL MEETING

Miss Alice Jencke will give illustrated talk about
Mt. Cannibal.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.
MEETING:
SPEAKER:
EXCURSION:

Friday February 26th
Dr. R. Brown "Birds"
Saturday February 27th to Inverloch
Anderson's Inlet area.
Meeting place at 10.00 am

F.N.C.A. Weekend
EXCURSIONS

March 6, 7, 8.
Morwell National Park Saturday
Tarra Valley and Bulga Parks Sunday
Tour of S.E.C. area Monday.

SATURDAY SUNDAY evening will be social gathering and meeting
at Postal Institute Hall, Hazelwood Road Morwell.

A MORNING WALK.

On the day following the L.V. Field Naturalists Club excursion to Labertouche Mr & Mrs Fricke accompanied seven members of the Club on a walk through the Morwell National Park. the freshness of the morning gradually gave way to warmth and sunshine and the Park, as ever, had much of interest to offer.

Three separate clusters of the dainty Butterfly Orchid (Sarcochilus australis) were noticed beside the walking track, and further along in the drier area, about eight or nine Cinnamon Bells (Gastrodia sesamoides). Both species of orchid were in full bloom.

Past Lyndon's Clearing a mass of Hard Water-fern (Blechnum procerum) sprawled over a slope on the left hand side of the Nature Trail. Its soft shades of apricot, lime and green made it an excellent subject for a water colour painting. Chattering Rosellas darted about, adding vivid splashes of crimson and blue to the more subdued colours of the bush.

Surprisingly on such a fine morning other species of birds seemed reluctant to show themselves, but they compensated by putting on a splendid vocal performance. Whip-birds, Golden whistlers, rufous Whistlers and Lyrebirds were all in good voice. Three old Lyrebird mounds were noticed.

Two Koalas were seen, and an Echidna and a Skink. The skink was last and least - but least in size only, for the tiny creature was shining bronze with delicate striped and spotted side markings, and it was quite beautiful.

Mr & Mrs Fricke will no doubt remember with pleasure their visit to the Morwell National Park once on a Sunday morning, before the sunlight was in the air..."

June Lubcke

THE CREEKS OF LABERTOUCHE AREA.

The unusual names of some of the creeks we passed during the excursion to Labertouche intrigued Mrs Peterson so she made a list of some of them. Sunset Valley, Sunrise Lookout, Teatree Rd, Grevillea Flat, Hungry Hill, Limberlost, not creeks but interesting areas. Then Dugout, Forest Quartz Creek Roads, Rocky, Discovery, Bullock Spur, Old Tinmine, Sisters and Lower Sisters Tracks.

Hut Corner (No hut) Seven Acre rock. All interesting and must have some story to tell.

Alf, Mabel, Crisp, Sardine, Pioneer and Gypsy Creeks.

North Hells Gate and south Hells Gate firetracks made us wonder just how these places really did get their names.

A KIMBERLEY SAFARI

On a wintry day in July 1981, I left Melbourne by air and, four hours later, walked out of Darwin airport with the temperature at 34 celsius, to join a safari holiday for 3 weeks. Boarding a four wheel drive bus, with 34 other people, mostly from Melbourne and suburbs, we drove around part of Darwin, then by the Stuart Highway stopping the first night at the Ferguson River. By evening it was pleasantly cool, without being cold, and it was good to erect our tents and sleep and eat "under the stars".

There were many fork-tailed (or black) Kites, soaring and circling above the camp site in the morning; also a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles. A single Jabiru was seen flying over, also white-necked herons on the river; red collared Lorikeets were busy in the tree tops and one eucalypt was covered with tree martins calling sweetly as they sat in the branches. In the low vegetation below the bridge, I was thrilled to find crimson finches, also double barred finches, busily feeding on the seeds of long grasses. They kept up a pleasant twittering.

Between Ferguson River and Katherine a small flock of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos flew across in front of the bus, and the Fork-tailed Kites were continually circling above the road as we travelled down the Victoria Highway. The road follows the river valley with high red rocky cliffs on either side; lightly timbered country with long grass between the trees and beef cattle grazing on unfenced areas. Animals that have been killed by motor vehicles attract large flocks of Crows and Kites. We stopped at Victoria River Crossing for two nights and a day. The river was low but there was enough water for swimming; I saw Brolgas, Large Egret, White-necked Herons, Forest Kingfisher, Blue-winged Kookaburra. Lovely Rainbow Birds (Bee eater) swooped and circled over the water after dragonflies; a pair perched often on a dry limb near my tent. Two Striated Pardalotes were busily taking loads of grass into a nesting burrow in the bank. Banded Dotterels fed on a sand bank, very neat and dainty as they ran to and fro. Peaceful Doves were common and tame; grey crowned babblers kept up a noisy chatter, and white-naped and grey honeyeaters fed in ucalypt blossoms. Willie Wagtail and restless flycatchers also singing. ON the way to Kununnurra, we stopped at West Baines River, almost dry, without enough water to swim in, but a white-necked Heron was quietly fishing. Lovely orange flowered Eucalyptus miniata attracted many honey eaters including yellow tinted. Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes and Peaceful Doves were here also and Striated Pardalotes. AT Timber Creek, I talked to a grader driver who told me that no rain had fallen since March 3rd and none was expected until October.

From Timber Creek to Kununnurra the scenery was more spectacular with a high red rock escarpment $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 Km away and the road wound about avoiding the roughest and steepest terrain. Lake Argyle is nine times the size of Sydney Harbour, it is a lovely sight, but is being used for very little irrigation. Pelicans, Egrets, White-necked and Pied Herons. Pied Cormorants, Darters, littel Corellas and Galahs were about the lake and surrounding trees. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Red-tailed Black cockatoos, Northern Rosella, Pied Butcherbird and Magpie Larks were all numerous.

A KIMBERLEY SAFARI.

contd...

A lovely orange Grevillea, (pteridifolia, I think) attracted white-throated honeyeaters, as well as white-naped and yellow tinted. A walk along the Ord River revealed Masked Finches and chestnut Breasted Mannikins.

From Kununnurra we followed the duncan Highway towards wyndham, then the Gibb river Road into the Kimberleys; red sandy roads and red rock cliffs and peaks. The Magpie Lark, Willie Wagtail, Peaceful Dove and Black-faced Cuckoo shrike were seen every day whenever we were near water, Highlights of the stop on the King River were plumed Whistling Ducks, Nankeen Night Herons, Red-winged Parrots and Azure Kingfishers. A stop on the Durack River added two most interesting and beautiful birds, the White Quilled Rock Pigeon and the Sandstone Shrike thrush, which whistled sweetly as it ran and walked under large boulders in the shade, only flying short distances to another patch of shade. Corellas and Galahs were noisy along the river and the great Bower Bird had built its bower not far from the water. We also saw a little Cuckoo shrike. Mopokes called at night and Brolgas flew over calling loudly.

On the way to Manning river Gorge, we saw Bustards. A Black Bittern was busily fishing in the Manning river and we saw Jaeky Winters, Northern flycatchers, and Bar-breasted Honeyeaters, a silver crowned Friar Bird, Black-faced Wood Swallow, Golden Whistler and Olive-backed Oriole.

At Winjana Gorge, Nankeen Kestrels were nesting high in the rocky cliffs, magpie larks also nesting and mopokes were seen at close quarters in daylight. Several great BowerBirds were coming to water, Diamond Doves were seen and figbirds, with lovely yellow breasts and reddish eyes.

Geike Gorge on the Fitzroy River is a fine sheet of water where we enjoyed a pleasant cruise amongst the Johnson River or Fresh Water Crocodiles. Every day was warm and cloudless 20-30 C. with a high blue sky.

Jane Purbrick .

The authors name was not included in this copy but we guessed it was from Jane. I hope we were right. Ed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JANUARY 20th 1982

Discussion and final arrangements for campout at Licola set out. This would be announced at January General Meeting.

Mosses and Liverworts 5 day course at Monash University May 24-28. Accomodation available at Normanby House \$16.50 per night. contact Centre for Continuing Education, Monash University Clayton 3168.

Publications received. ECOS, Victorian Naturalist, C.C.V. Minutes Northern Territory Naturalist, 1982 Victorian alpine Calendar offer \$4.50 incl postage. from C.C.V. P.O Box 845j Melbourne 3001.

Discussion re the forthcoming weekend when the F.N.C.A. members will visit the Latrobe Valley. Camping available at Hazelwood pondage. Advice re Motels etc sent to Secretary.

Saturday and Sunday evenings will be spent at the Pastal Institute Hall in Morwell. Excursions arranged to Morwell National Park, Tarra Valley and Bulga Parks, Tour of S.E.C. area. We hope it will be a pleasant weekend.

We have not been advised of any charges for our meeting hall as yet. Advised that there is a room at Morwell Library which can be used by Community groups.

SUPPER ROSTER February 26th. Mrs Padfield Mrs Branson

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 24th at the home of Mr and Mrs Thompson, Downies Lane Traralgon South at 7.30 pm. Any interested members are welcome at these meetings.

ANNUAL MEETINGMARCH 26th

Members are asked to give some thought to the election of office bearers which will take place at the Annual Meeting March 26th 1982.

We must elect 1. Secretary 2. No 1 Vice President (vacant since 1981)
3. No 2 Vice President held by Mr O. Thompson at present
4. No 3 Vice President held by Mr E. Lubcke at present.

The Committee is anxious to see some new people on the committee as these people just cannot continue for ever without some relief.

Nomination forms will be included in March issue of Naturalist.

Disturbing news re the Book Tax to be introduced, is that it might affect our publication in some way. We are endeavouring to find out just how the tax if implemented will affect the L.V. Naturalist.

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows.

| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, NORWELL 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>NOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O. Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL. |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall. BAIRNSDALE. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 109
NEWBOROUGH 3828

NATURALIST \$6.00 FAMILY \$8.00 SINGLE MEMBERS \$ 7.00

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MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

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99 Chamberlain Rd.
Newborough 3828.

MARCH, 1982.
ISSUE No. 219.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist



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COMING EVENTS

MARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday March 19th

Mr Eric Ronalds "Birds and Insects"

March 28th Bush Picnic in conjunction with Heritage Week.

Meeting Place

Marragul Civic Centre.

Contact J. Brooks for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday March 26th ANNUAL MEETING

Speaker:

Dr Griffin C.S.I.R.O. "Eucalypts"

Excursion

Saturday March 27th to Marracan area.

Meeting Place:

Gunn's Gully (Hevborough) in the open
space there at 10.00 am

WARRAGUL FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB.

At the Warragul F.N.C. Annual Meeting on 19th February, Mrs Alice Jencke was elected President; Jack Brooks, Secretary; Nancy Brooks, Treasurer, Mrs Doreen Bird is our newly elected vice-President, with Frank Hanley accepting the position of Assistant Secretary.

Membership Fee remains the same at \$2.00 with the option of contributing to "Latrobe Valley Naturalist" for a further \$6.00 for 1982.

Alice Jencke showed slides of last year's tree planting by the Ranger and Staff and "Friends of Mount North" in the grasslands of the Park, being the second annual planting, together with views of many of the scenic spots around the park.

Mr Scott Campbell, the Park Ranger, then outlined the many ways that the "Friends" can assist in the Park - such jobs as making tree guards, tree planting in the Winter, cutting tracks, tidying up by collecting and removing rubbish at natural beauty spots, etc - as well as pointing to the great value of meeting socially in the enjoyment of a walk in the park in congenial company with the songs of the Lyrebirds providing the musical background.

Anyone wishing to join the "Friends" group activities can ring Jack Brooks on (056) 231 563 for future meeting dates and suggestions on suitable equipment, tools, etc that may be required.

At the moment, preparations are directed at readiness for an event in connection with NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK which is aimed at awakening the consciousness of the public to the importance of Nature in relation to peoples welfare in the modern World which is so often overlooked.

The date is 28th March when a Bush Picnic will be participated in by everyone who cares to come.

Starting from the Warragul Civic Centre, we will travel via Seaview and Mount North to Possum Hollow Picnic Area in Mt North Park where we will meet with those who go direct to that spot.

It is where the River Road (from Darnum) first crosses the West Tarwin River.

Mr. Alan Morrison

Members and friends of Mr Alan Morrison will be sorry to hear that he suffered a stroke while attending the V.F.N.C.A. weekend in the Latrobe Valley. He was admitted to hospital and is now in hospital in Melbourne. We wish him a speedy recovery.

A card was signed by all present at the meeting on Saturday Night and given to him in hospital.

Mrs E. Lyndon is back on the track again. She attended the last excursion of L.V.F.N.C. and was at the outing to Morwell National Park on Saturday March 6th. to meet her friends from all over Victoria who had come to visit the area for the weekend.

MEMBERS NIGHT JANUARY 22nd.

There was a nice collection of slides from our members for the evening, which covered many interests.

Jean Galbraith presented slides of Carnivorous plants. The Sundew and views showing the plant enlarged to show just how this plant digests its food. The Pitcher Plants and enlarged views and in section.

Fairies Aprons showing the bladders which open to trap insects. These were well explained to us all.

LORNA PADFIELD showed slides of Wilson's Promontory taken during Cup Week 1981 on the various walks the group took part in, but mainly the walk to Tongue Point.

Eric Lubcke's slides took us to Venus Bay in the area of the "Bird Foot-prints", and alpine views at Mt Dav Bay. Flowers were Trigger Plants and Wedding Bush. Other views of interest were of Wonangatta valley and homestead area.

Mrs Awty had slides of an "Albino" Wombat which intrigued us all. Another slide showed 11 emu eggs in the nest. Other slides of Wittenoon Gorge and Hammersley Ranges were of interest showing the many bright colours of the rocks and the unusual formations. The Smoke-bush at Kalbarri showed what some of the flowers of North West Australia are like in that area.

Mary Huxley kept us in the west with slides of the beautiful flowers, Leschanaultea, Dampiera and Geraldton Wax plant. A Kangaroo Paw display in a local cemetery (evidently a good place for flowers) and the Purple Hovea were spectacular. A field of pink and white Everlastings gave us all the desire to go "west". The Cats Paw seemed to be the plant of Mrs Huxleys choice.

Bart Sterkenburg brought us eastward to Mt Kosciusko, showing the views obtained from the summit. The roof of Australia as it is known. Scribble Gums, Alpine Celery and Richea showed some of the flora. A bearded Lizard showing his frill looked frightening. Other slides of Seaweed and an Octopus under water were interesting.

The Thompsons presented Alpine flowers, samples of what might be seen on the forthcoming alpine excursion. There were Daisy-bush, Snow Daisy, Trigger Plants, Eyebright, the bright yellow Podolepis and Helichrysum and the delicate Gentian. The white flower of a Sundew was interesting. Orchids shown were the Veined Sun-orchid and Leek orchids.

Mrs Vinell showed slides of pet Kangaroos, and the sand erosion on the Gold Coast at Burleigh Heads. A large tree shown was thought to be a Moreton Bay Figtree.

Jean Merson brought us back to Victoria and East Gippsland with views of the Cabbage Palms in the sub tropical areas near Cabbage Tree. These slides were most interesting as there are not many of these trees growing in their natural habitat now.

MEMBERS NIGHT JANUARY 22nd.

The Brooks slides were of Northern Territory subjects.

The Umbrwarra gorge near Pine Creek was a lovely area. A picture of Climbing Fern (one of the few fern in N.T.) , Screw Palm and a flower which proved to be one of the Hibiscus family.

Then we travelled to West Australia and the Hidden Valley near Kununarra showing the grandeur of the rock formations. A display of Calytrix was spectacular.

The general exhibits were seeds of Nakea, fruits of Kiwi Bush (Casuarina muelleri) very like a small kiwi. The unusual fruits of some Eucalypts, Dishes of Yellow Bladderwort and Duckweed.

It was a most interesting and informative evening.

L. Padfield

JANUARY CAMPOUT.

by Don Thompson

The weather and the company were very pleasant, so the weekend was most successful. During the weekend about 36 members were present. Many members arrived on Friday and got the camp working in fine order; so by the time we arrived on Friday evening the water for showers, etc. was hot and the electricity was available.

The "Birdos" rose early Saturday morning and went in search of their feathered friends. The others rose later and after breakfast took a leisurely walk in the bushland and river area near the camp. There was always someone at the camp to welcome the new arrivals.

After lunch an excursion to Mt Tamboritha was arranged so that members who had to leave on Sunday could see the alpine flowers. While many of us explored the flora around the Mt Tamboritha cattle yards, some cars were held up down the road as one car had engine trouble. However the men were equal to the situation and after some time the problem was solved and rectified. We did not move on because of the number of interesting plants to investigate in that area. I felt the flowers were a little later than usual in blooming this year, probably due to the autumn rains being later. The Summer Greenhood produced a few blooms for us to find. The Bluebells were truly beautiful, large in size and deep in colour. Both the paler Tall Bluebell and the darker Royal Bluebell had many flowers in bloom. The creeping Matted Bossiaea still had some orange and brown pea flowers. The clusters of yellow and brown pea flowers with very tiny leaves and unusual pods divided into 2 lengthwise, had many of us tricked until Miss Galbraith came along and identified it as Mountain Kirbelia. The distinctive long orange buds of the Dwarf Geebung and the grevillea-like flowers were easy to see; but as the plants crept along the ground it required quite a stoop to appreciate them. Some members tasted the tempting little berries of the Mountain Beard-heath whose bushes were seen in several places during the weekend.

contd...pp 4

JANUARY CAMPOUT.

However as a feed they left much to be desired as they had little flesh; but they did stimulate the saliva and so would help thirsty travellers. The pale Vanilla Lilies, with their nodding dainty flowers, were enchanting. there were two different daisy-bushes - the Large-leaf Daisy-bush with, as the name suggests, large leaves bright and smooth green above but almost cottony on the underside and the other Moth Daisy-bush with smaller leaves and the flowers with only 3 white rays. The deep pink triggers and the orange Alpine Podolepis with the three-lobed "petals" and the transparent bracts added bright colour to the area. The large white Snow Daisies and the smaller Chanonile sunray are also characteristic alpine flowers. Less conspicuous were the unusual shaped flowers of the fine-leaved form of the Elderberry Panax. The small Bottle daisy looked as if all the flower heads had fallen off just leaving the green cup. In some cases this was right, but there were also heads with the tiny green tubular flowers in full bloom but not exceeding the green cup and therefore not noticeable unless under magnification. The other very interesting plant was the Austral Moonwort that is not seen very often.

On the Sunday excursion we headed for the Caledonia swamp in the hope of collecting specimens of Epacris coracea the Illawarra Coral Heath that had recently been found there and was not previously recorded in Victoria. The herbarium needed specimens for the records. We had several stops along the way. the first being Lost Plain which was our first snow plain. Here we found the little creeping Ivy Goodenia the Lattice Everlasting with tiny cream flowers in dense clusters and the dark green leaves pressed closely into the white branches making a lattice pattern; the tiny button-like flowers of Cotula; the tiny white flowers of the Alpine woodruff and the starry white flowers of the Prickly Starwort; the mauve flowers of the eyebright; the small shrubs of the tree violet and the tiny teatree-like flowers of the mountain Heath-myrtle - Baeckea gunniana - , and the delicate clusters right on the ground of the Alpine Trachymene. Here we also found a lovely bloom of the mauve Leek-orchid with its white tongue pointing upwards. Yellowish green tufts proved to be the Twin-flowered Knave with tiny flowers in pairs; later on in the day we found another Knave with single flowers.

We then set off again looking for a bog to find other types of flowers. Our next stop was not as good a bog as we had hoped. But we were shown a waterfall about 6 metres high and around the base were several ferns including the Alpine Waterfern, Mother Shield-fern, Necklace Fern. But more exciting was the leaves of the Silky Daisy, a second kind of Snow Daisy. This one loses all its leaves in the winter and only a mass of intertwined roots remain ready for the next Spring. We believe this is only the second record area outside the Bogong High Plains area, where this plant grows. There was also a bush of the pink Alpine Rice-flower and specimens of the Alpine Groundsel with its big yellow daisy flowers.

JANUARY CAMPOUT.

contd...

From this interesting spot we moved on to the turnoff to the Caladonia swamp and had lunch there. As the road to the swamp looked rather rough and dangerous because of its pebbles which can make the wheels of the cars slip, it was decided that one car go down to the swamp and see if the road was passable for the whole excursion and the rest of the excursion would walk over to look down into Bryces Gorge. Ollie took our car down towards the swamp; but about halfway down we met Evan and Clare Chesterfield, who had collected some specimens of the heath. So it was decided to turn back and nobody else went down to the swamp. Everybody was left free to make their own way back to camp stopping where they wished. There was a wonderful display of colours in profusion with the Triggers, Bluebells, snow Daisies and Buttons, Everlastings, etc. Many people stopped to photograph these. Some flowers I have not mentioned that were seen in several places include the bright Orange Everlastings, the Billy Buttons, the shaggy Pea, the delicate mauve flowers of the Derwent speedwell and the flowering Snow Gums. This report does not include all the flowers seen for the weekend as I did not make a list while we were up there.

Unfortunate incidents for the weekend included a visit from two bikies who were investigating the cars at 1 am when disturbed by our President. Had Jim not got up to see what was going on, the bikies could have had quite a haul from the cars. In the early hours one morning, a member "jumped" from a top bunk wakening everyone.

In the evenings we enjoyed music of the recorder, ocarina and guitar and singing and, of course, much chatter.

No report for the weekend would be complete without the thanks to the members who organised the sleeping quarters, lit the furnace and kept it going for our hot water, pumped up the water when necessary and opened up and locked up the camp. I am sure everyone present will have many happy memories of the weekend.

Plants as they appear in the article.

| | |
|---|---|
| Summer Greenhood - <i>Pterostylis decurva</i> | Tall Bluebell - <i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i> |
| Royal Bluebell - <i>Wahlenbergia gloriosa</i> | Matted Bossiaea - <i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i> |
| Mountain Mirbelia - <i>Mirbelia oxylloboides</i> | Dwarf Geebung - <i>Persoonia chamaepeuce</i> |
| Mountain Beard-heath - <i>Leucopogon suaveolens</i> | Pale Vanilla Lily - <i>Anthropodium milleflorum</i> |
| Large-leaf Daisy-bush - <i>Olearia megalophylla</i> | Triggers - <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> |
| Moth Daisy-bush - <i>Olearia erubescens</i> | Snow Daisy - <i>Celmisia asteliifolia</i> |
| Alpine Podolepis - <i>Podolepis robusta</i> | Elderberry - <i>Panax</i> |
| Chamomile Sunray - <i>Helipterum anthemoides</i> | Polyscias - <i>Polyscias sambucifolius</i> |
| Small Bottle-daisy - <i>Solenogyne bellioides</i> | Ivy Goodenia - <i>Goodenia hederacea</i> |
| Austral Moonwort - <i>Botrychium australe</i> | Alpine Woodruff - <i>Asperula gunnii</i> |
| Lattice Everlasting - <i>Helichrysum hookeri</i> | Purple eyebright - <i>Euphrasia collina</i> |
| Prickly Starwort - <i>Stellaria pungens</i> | Alpine Trachymene - <i>Trachymene humilis</i> |
| Tree Violet - <i>Hymenanthera angustifolia</i> | Twin-flowered Knave - <i>Scleranthus biflorus</i> |
| Mauve Leek-orchid - <i>Prasophyllum suttonii</i> | Silky Daisy - <i>Celmisia sericophylla</i> |
| Alpine Waterfern - <i>Blechnum penna-marina</i> | Alpine Groundsel - <i>Senecio pectinatus</i> |
| Mother Shield-fern - <i>Polystichum proliferum</i> | Billy Buttons - <i>Craspedia glauca</i> |
| Necklace Fern - <i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i> | Snow Gums - <i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i> |
| Alpine Riceflower - <i>Pimelea alpina</i> | |
| Orange Everlasting - <i>Helichrysum acuminatum</i> | |
| Derwent Speedwell - <i>Parahebe derwentiana</i> | |

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 24th 1982.

ANNUAL MEETING: March 26th. Offices to be filled are

Vice President 1 year term (not filled last year)

Vice President 2 years held by Mr Thompson

Vice President 2 years held by Mr Lubcke

Secretary 2 year term held by Mrs Peterson who has been in the position for 8 years.

Nomination forms in this issue of Naturalist.

Advised that there had been a postal increase, also we do not know yet if the proposed Book Tax will affect the Naturalist.

Discussion took place re the raising of fees, but decided to defer a decision for 6 months when a further look at the situation will be taken.

Correspondence received: Details of C.C.V. Annual Meeting

Details of a Public Meeting re Woodchipping.

Clematis, N.E. Naturalist (Tas) N.T. Naturalist, Victorian Naturalist

S.G.A.P. Harroondah Group Newsletter. Petition from A.C.F. re Save the Barrier Reef.

Natural History Medallion: decided that we would support the nomination of Miss Rika Erickson from West Australia.

An article appeared in the Traralgon Journal re the cutting of Tree-ferns in the Calignee area. A letter was written to the paper and printed with the name of our Club at the end. This letter was not sent by the Club although we did agree with the sentiments expressed.

The Journal is to apologise to the Club for this oversight by a reporter. The Committee was rather disturbed by this happening.

CRINIGAN RESERVE. Horwell. Mr Lubcke attended a meeting in which the local people are attempting to find out just what will happen to the area. Barry Traill had written a thesis about the area and its prospects of becoming a reserve or not. We are still awaiting the outcome of further talks with Council. S.E.C. etc.

The book "The WONDERFUL BUTTERFLY" by Jean Galbraith was to be presented to Moorabinda Camp in appreciation of being able to use the area for our Christmas Breakup.

Conservation Co-ordinator reported that we are considering the 6th submission re the S.E.C. Drifffield Project.

S.E.C. had sent details of proposed Transmission line between Sale and Bairnsdale. The position of easements and alternate routes marked.

We are to comment on this within one month.

Supper Roster March 26th.

Mrs Husley Mrs Merson.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday March 24th at the home of Mrs Padfield 99 Chamberlain road at 7.30 pm.

The editor (Mrs Padfield) will be absent from July to September.

Does anyone feel able to do typing for the Naturalist during this time.

If so please contact the above as soon as possible.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
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COMING EVENTS.

HARRAGUL F.H.C.

MEETING:

Friday April 16th

SPEAKER

Miss Sue Hoy Illustrated Talk
"Hiking in New Zealand".

EXCURSION:

Sunday April 18th Glen Hayook

LATROBE VALLEY F.H.C.

MEETING:

Friday April 23rd

SPEAKER:

Mr Peter Thomas

"History of Wilsons Promontory"

EXCURSION:

Saturday April 24th to Wilsons Prom.

MEETINGPLACE:

Yanakie township 10.15 am and leave
at 10.30am

Course at Rotamah Island Bird Observatory.

May 9-13 Introductory Field Ornithology

Contact the warden P.O.Box 75 Paynesville 3880. Tel 051-566398

EXCURSION TRAIN TRIP TO ZOO MAY 29th.

Mr Wall would like to know numbers interested in this trip
so that he can arrange accomodation on the train.

Cost of trip not known at present.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Reviewing the last 12 months, I feel that they have been most successful, not only have we had very good speakers, meetings and excursions but have participated in other activities.

We manned a stand in conjunction with the National Parks at the rotary Club display at Kernot Hall during the Latrobe Valley Festival and also held a Native Flora and Fauna show in the Postal Institute Hall which was an outstanding success and from these two activities we gained new members. We hosted the Victorian Field Naturalists Club Association during the Labour weekend and I thank all those members who gave up their weekend to make it successful.

Our Xmas breakup was held at Woorabinda school camp and was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our January campout was held at the Traralgon High School Camp at Licola and was fully booked out. My thanks go to the members for their untiring efforts in making it comfortable for those attending.

Many submissions have been tendered to the appropriate authorities by our conservation co-ordinator (Mrs Thompson) and an excellent job has been done.

A sad ending to the year has been the death of Miss G. Auchterlonie who was a foundation member.

Special thanks to Mrs Iris Peterson, our Secretary who has kept me informed on club matters during the past year.

I conclude this report by thanking you all for the opportunity of being your president, and sincerely hope to enjoy the next 12 months as well as the last.

J. Wall (President)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE March 1st to February 28th
1981 1982

| <u>Summary of Cash Receipts</u> | | <u>Summary of Payments.</u> | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Balance as at 2/3/81. | \$129.44 | Naturalist | \$540.38 |
| Bank Interest | 9.33 | Petty Cash Secretary and | |
| Donations (incl suppers and | | Publicity | 84.72 |
| sale of plants) | 112.86 | Subscriptions and donations | |
| Proceeds from Flower show | 175.95 | | 69.00 |
| Sale of plants at show | 145.20 | Hire of Hall Flower Show | 75.00 |
| Licola Campout | 125.00 | Microphone for meetings | 26.50 |
| Cheques from Miss Galbraith | 70.80 | Traralgon High School | |
| Membership Subscriptions | 80.50 | for Licola Campout | 125.00 |
| Magazine Subscriptions | 374.00 | To Miss Galbraith | 70.80 |
| | | Book for Woorabinda | 3.25 |
| | | Balance on hand 2/3/82 | 274.43 |
| | <u>\$1269.08</u> | | <u>\$1269.08</u> |

JANUARY CAMPOUT.

Some comments on the flora at the campout by Miss Galbraith. The Bluebells are always a feature of the alpine plains in late January and we saw three species - the large-flowered rich purple blue Royal Bluebell with firm shining leaves with crinkled edges; the usually paler blue Tall Bluebell with soft hairy leaves; while here and there were the Sprawling Bluebells with tiny almost minute flowers on single stems when they grew amongst dry rock crevices, but living up to their name in much branched sprawling bushes in damp places.

We did not record all the trees, though about a dozen species of Eucalypts were noted. Especially interesting amongst them were the Spinning-top Gums - fine, widely branched trees along the cree below where we lunched. The "spinning top" leaves, encircling the stems and often breaking free and spinning round, are only on young trees. I did not find any young trees. It was interesting too to see Black Sallee with starry clusters of buds and white Sallee (snow gum) with its heavier, often bluish fruits, growing together near the Tamboritha Stockyard.

The new discovery for that part of the mountains was the handsome silky Daisy (Celmisia sericophylla) handsome in flower at least, but there were no flowers. It was too early for them, but the limp silky grey-green leaves in a great mass directly under a little waterfall on the Bennison Plains were unmistakable. Silky Daisy differs from the big Silver Daisies common on the high plains in having annual, not perennial leaves. Those of the big silver Daisies, which were flowering all over the high plains, live under the snow during winter and are very stiff, growing in tufts, each plant distinct from the others. While the silky Daisy loses its leaves in winter making new ones when the snow melt uncovers its masses of thick interwoven rhizomes (no signs of separate tufts). It flowers when the Silver Daisies are nearly over and its flowers, though little if any larger than Silver Daisies, look larger and whiter because the petals are broader.

BIRDS OF THE COAST. Talk by Dr. R. Brown 26/2/82

Dr. Robert Brown of Warragul spoke to a large group of members and visitors at the February meeting his subject being "Sea Birds of the world". This talk was illustrated by slides many of which had been taken overseas, on the many trips taken by Dr. Brown.

The first few slides showed the different environmental habitats of bird groups. Seashore, coastal areas, salt flats, low sandy beaches, and sand dunes. Dr. Brown mentioned a superb spot for viewing waders, stilts, avocet, and sea birds, namely, Werribee. Examples of the different groups of sea birds were Penguins, Petrels, Shearwaters, Albatross, Waders, Gulls and Terns. Among some of the interesting features of these birds is the scale like effect on the feathers of the Fairy Penguins, the reason for which is unknown.

BIRDS OF THE COAST

contd...

The Albatross is not seen in the northern hemisphere and takes as long as 6 to 7 years to fully mature. The Osprey which is one of the few large sea water feeding birds of prey can be seen all over the world and has a large untidy nest.

For all his photography Dr Brown used a Telephoto Mirror Lens and did not use a hide, in fact he stated he had never been in a hide. During his talk Dr Brown was assisted by Mr Richard Woods who operated the projector.

Peg Hall.SOMETHING ABOUT SPIDERS.

There has been some disquieting reports in the press of recent weeks concerning venomous spiders. It seems that spider specialists are few and far between and we are only now learning that some common species are dangerous. Reactions to the poison seem to vary from person to person, but, like our snakes, few of our Victorian spiders are aggressive. I met a lass this week who told me that a fairly large black spider had crawled into her ear as she lay in bed. It did not bite her. Her husband poured a drop of oil on it and it obligingly backed out again. I could not repress a shudder!

All spiders carry some poison, usually justy enough to immobilise their particular prey. The two most publicised and deadly kinds are well known, and, in addition to these, we have a couple of introduced species with a bad reputation.

The common Australian Black House Spider, Ixuticus robustus, can cause very unpleasant symptoms. The large female lives in dark window corners in a dusty funnel-shaped web. The smaller male has a habit of wandering round the walls at certain times of the year, and is likely to lose his footing and drop onto beds. I was bitten on the wrist by one of these and was off colour for a week, suffering severe muscular pains.

They are despatched on sight now.

In my potting shed lives another large black spider also native with a sort of cylindrical body, and if one looks closely, a white tip on its rear end. This is Lampona cylindrata, the White-tailed Spider, which is said to pack a very severe bite. When I am sorting wattle seeds from paper bags there are usually several white-tails that waddle off into dark corners. Some of the wolf spiders are under suspicion of causing gangrene with their bites, but this particular spider is as yet unidentified. There is no need to panic, but it is well to treat all spiders with respect, and to wear gloves when gardening or sorting material that has lain undisturbed for a while. Few people suffer bites, and the spider tribe in general are great destroyers of harmful insects.

Ellen Lyndon.

CAPE YORK WALKABOUT.

I don't think I told you about my trip to Unilya Point last year in August with the National Parks and Wildlife Study Team. Unilya point is north of here but south of the Jardine, and forms part of Comalco's lease. There is no road access, so we went up by boat (a fishing barge) two days, and then set up camp just behind the beach on the edge of vine forest. Mick Goodwin, a N.P.W.S. botanist who works with Peter Stanton in Cairns was also on the trip - and he and I botanized for 10 days while the others did the fauna work - happily, spotlighting etc. Mick and I walked and walked through swamps, along dunes, through mangroves, over sand plains - through some truly fascinating country. Mick is also a soil scientist, so I learnt so much. What was fascinating was to see how the land had changed, and the vegetation, as the sea receded. We found parallel dunes and old remnants of dunes miles inland. The first colonizers of the dunes are Casuarina equisetifolia and grasses and vines, and then Melaleuca dealbata colonizes in the swamps and then maybe vine forests. It was a real botanical feast - and there were Melaleucas galore - they are such a complicated group, and nobody seems able to sort them out - and there are definitely undescribed ones. We got into low (.2m) Melaleuca swamps, typical I gather of the Jardine swamps which stretch for miles and are almost impossible to walk through. We also found wonderful swamps with the most incredible stands of Nepenthes mirabilis * and pitchers of all sizes, and myriads of other little insectivorous plants - Droseras, Spathulata petiolaris, Utricularias, Stylidiums. We are still sorting out some of the species.

Ann Norton

from a letter to Jean Galbraith.

* Casuarina equisetifolia

EXCURSION TO ANDERSONS INLET AND INVERLOCH AREA 27/2/82

With a lovely morning sky with a hint of Autumn the members congregated at Meeniyah to receive a briefing from our fellow members Eulie and Ossie Brewster who ably organised the day's activities.

Fourteen cars in convoy proceeded towards Inverloch and the first point of interest was a stop at the local tip! The point being a row of trees planted seven years ago alongside a road by Mrs Lyndon to screen the scarred bush of the tip area, a commendable effort.

We then travelled on and arrived at the BBQ area at Mahers Landing on the Inlet. The weather was still fine but a cool sea breeze warranted a cardigan.

The first bird of note sighted (by Dr Rob Brown) was a Peregrine Falcon hovering over the approaches to the car park. A few members probably missed it.

EXCURSION TO ANDERSONS INLET AND INVERLOCH AREA

contd...

Then the following birds were sighted- Red-browed Finch, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-faced Heron, Spur-winged Plover, Pacific Gull (immature and mature), Silver Gull, Little Pied Cormorant, Eastern Curlew, White Ibis, Crested Tern, Black Swan, Wood Swallow, Dusky Wood Swallow, Silver-eyes, Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail, Magpie Lark, Red-capped Dotterel, Caspian Tern, Whistling Kite, Double Banded Plover and finally Red-necked Stints.

All of these birds were sighted at various times during the day. The Red-capped Dotterel breeds in New Zealand and like the Double Banded Plover is a relatively uncommon bird in S.E. Australia.

Lunch was taken on the beach at Inverloch and those energetic walkers who worked off their calories in the direction of Eagles Nest were treated to a sight of black coal quite visible in the cliff face. One wonders what the vegetation and birdlife was like which rotted down to form it.

After lunch we returned to Inverloch township and visited the display centre for the South Gippsland Conservation Society and saw some very interesting publications related to Conservation.

Then a visit to the Shell Museum with its interesting collection of Marine Life preceeded our return to our first major call, Mahers Landing. By this time the tide and time were almost right to see some more birds. After a patient wait in the tussocks some small birds flew in from across the other side of the Inlet but did not go to ground as expected. Instead they carried on their swift flight towards Inverloch.

On returning to the car park the members were greeted by a very lovely sight of a huge flock of Red-necked Stints on the beach sand west of Mahers Landing huddled together looking like an area of fabricated cobblestones all exactly the same size shape and colour and probably the flocks of flashing wings which refused to join us near the tussocks.

Special thanks are due to Eulie and Ossie Brewster for their guidance during the day and to the various "birdos" who helped with identification.

J. Brown.

Mrs ELLEN Lyndon wishes to thank all L.V.F.N.C. members who sent cards, flowers and visited her during her recent stay in hospital. All these efforts were greatly appreciated by her.

Thankyou also to the rangers of the National Parks who gave their time to assist the V.F.N.C.A. members when they visited these areas on their weekend in March.

The Rangers are Mark Doyle, Tim Oconnor and Jim Catterwall from Horwell Tarra Valley and Bulga National Parks.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD March 24th 1982.

Mrs Wall offered to do typing for Naturalist in the absence of the Editor. Mrs Peterson offered to assemble and post Naturalist while Mrs Burns is away. Miss Galbraith will do any editing necessary. Please note that for the months of July August and September that any correspondence for the Naturalist should be sent to Mrs Wall 156 Kay St Traralgon 3844.

Discussion re arrangements for Annual Meeting and election of office bearers.

Meeting place for April excursion decided. Yanakie Township so that all can find their own way there and only travel in convoy the distance to Wilsons Prom from there.

Details of V.F.N. Botany Group Excursion which we would not be able to attend.

Letter from V.F.N.C.A. expressing thanks for the pleasant weekend spent in Latrobe Valley during March 6.7.8.

There is to be a Mini Campout 28th August at Bendigo, centred in the Whipstick area.

Publications received.

C.C.V. Annual Meeting Agenda.

Ecos,

N.T. Naturalist

Geelong Naturalist

S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group Newsletter.

Woodchipping (Native Forest WEEK)

Greening of the Valley. Latrobe Valley Forum wanted to know our policy on this matter. Mr Lubcke is the representative on the committee.

After much discussion a policy was decided upon which Mr Lubcke would take to the L.V. Forum.

Mr Wall thanked all for help during the V.F.N.C.A. weekend.

40 people came from Melbourne and other parts of Victoria for the weekend.

We heard with sorrow of the death of Miss Auchterlonie. Members of the Club were represented at the service for her at Thorpdale. A plate to be on table at general meeting for contributions towards floral tribute.

Miss Galbraith reported that there is general improvement in the condition of Mr Alan Morrison, she had visited him recently.

Mr Morrison wished to thank all members for their help and concern, visits in hospital, flowers, cards etc..

Conservation Co-ordinator. reported that she had written to the Vermin and Noxious Weeds authority re the Boneseed infestation at Giffard.

A bird list supplied to B.O.C. of Giffard Rifle Range area.

Submission to S.R.C. re power line easements

Next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday April 21st at the home of the Lubckes 221a Helen Street Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster April 23rd....

Mrs O'Reilly Mrs Burns.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, NORWELL 3840 'phone 342128 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>HOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O. Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL. |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.M.A. Hall. BAIRNSDALE. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 109
NEWBOROUGH 3828

NATURALIST \$6.00 FAMILY \$8.00 SINGLE MEMBERS \$ 7.00

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

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99 Chamberlain Rd.
Newborough 3828.

MAY, 1982.

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Protect and enjoy

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COMING EVENTS

Narragull F.H.C.

Meeting:

Friday May 21st

Movie Films of Little Desert

by John Daymond.

Excursion:

Sunday May 23rd

Contact Secretary for details.

World Environment Day

June 5th

Walk in Mt North Park.

Meeting Place:

Poison Hollow Picnic area 1. pm

Latrobe Valley F.H.C.

Meeting:

Friday May 28th

Speaker:

Dr Beadnell

"Penguins and the Antarctic"

Excursion:

Saturday May 29th

Meeting Place:

Heyfield old Butter Factory at 10.00am

Visit birds at Henry and Sale

Please note that Zoo Trip has been postponed.

POLLINATION STUDIES IN EUCALYPTS.

Talk by Dr A.R. Griffin 26/3/82.

After spending many years studying the genetics of conifers, especially Pinus radiata, Dr Griffin turned his attention to the reproductive biology of eucalypts. This was in response to a demand for knowledge and skills in the breeding of eucalypts for improved seed to be used in plantation establishment.

About 40 % of Australia's land area carried tree or mallee communities before European settlement. Unlike many temperate forest communities in the northern hemisphere the majority of species are hardwoods, and of those eucalypts predominate. Eucalypts grow in habitats ranging from alpine to semi desert and their form varies from 20 m tall Eucalyptus regnans to low mallee species. About 450 species have been identified, of which 111 are listed in a recent National Parks publication as rare or threatened.

In discussing eucalypts it is important to understand the taxonomy of the genus. The genus Eucalyptus is within the family Myrtaceae and is divided into several subgenera. Two subgenera represented in the Gippsland area are Monocalyptus and Symphomyrtus. Species of the Monocalyptus have only one speculum (the cap covering the stamens) whereas those of Symphomyrtus have two. Species from different subgenera cannot hybridize, due to genetic incompatibility, but those from within the same subgenera can. For example E. regnans and E. obliqua from Monocalyptus can hybridize and likewise E. viminalis and E. globulus from Symphomyrtus. When hybridizing, species are growing in close proximity, ecological factors and flowering biology are very important in retaining species integrity. Classification of individual eucalypts is based on habitat, tree size and form, bark type, adult and juvenile leaf venation and shape, inflorescence type, bud and fruit size, shape and structure, and ovate and seed coat structure. No single character is usually definitive.

While taxonomy is important it is much more interesting to know what the adaptive advantages of the characteristics taxonomists use are. How do species retain their genetic integrity, compete with each other for habitat resources and interact with their pollinators etc..? Answers to these sort of questions give real insights into the evolution of the group and will hopefully allow us to plan successfully for the conservation of those communities which are threatened by alternative land uses.

The rest of the talk concentrated on some relationships between various flowering characters of different eucalypt species and their pollinators.

Some major floral traits in eucalypts that vary widely are : flowering season, affecting the array of active vectors; flower size, affecting the size of the pollen/nectar reward and the component of the flower visitors which effects pollination; numbers of flowers per inflorescence, affecting energy expenditure in reward harvest; stamen colours, affecting visual attraction; and nectar exposure and flower presentation, affecting accessibility to the reward. The question arises " Are these variations adaptations to particular types of pollinators? "

POLLINATION STUDIES IN EUCALYPTS.

contd...

The following three premises were derived from general literature on flowering biology.

1. Insects are more active in summer than winter; birds are less seasonal.
2. Large vectors are attracted to large rewards (nectar)
3. Non white flowers are more commonly associated with birds than insects.

Studies on Western Australian eucalypts validated these premises. such that large flowers tend to be bird pollinated, coloured (red or yellow) and non-seasonal white small flowers tend to be insect pollinated, white and quite seasonal.

The importance of floral structure was also described in relation to two closely related species growing at Cowarr: E. polyanthemos and E. sideroxylon. Even though they are capable of hybridization this does not occur. the reason for this lies in their pollination biology. E. polyanthemos has small erect flowers and is more frequently visited and pollinated by insects (bees, wasps, moths and butterflies) than birds, whereas E. sideroxylon has large and drooping flowers and is more frequently visited and pollinated by birds (red wattle bird, sulphur crested cockatoo, crimson rosella, honeyeaters) than insects. Hence, there is very little cross pollination because very different pollen vectors are involved.

The talk was supported by an excellent set of illustrative slides and enjoyed by all present.

Philip Smethurst.

NOTE FROM WEIPA.

It is December January, and a lovely time of year with respect to discovering all sorts of things out in the forest which you have forgotten about over the dry season. (as well as the irksome side of seeing wretched annual weeds such as HYPTIS pop up everywhere). Grasses are beginning to flower, the weed cane Cayratia and Cissus bursts out of nowhere and scrambles thicker and yon, dear little Brunonella australis makes displays of white flowers in the mornings and they drop off as it heats up (they were at their best in December).

The Crinum Lilies were also lovely with the first good rains. Yes I have seen Burmannia only occasionally, and I know it only from a couple of places close to here, both in lovely swampy areas with Xanthostemon crenulata and Tristonia and sedges and Nepenthes and other swampy delights including Yellow billed Kingfishers. heard much more than seen.

Ann Horton

from a letter to Miss J. Galbraith.

MARCH EXCURSION IN THE HARRACAN DISTRICT.

It was a morning of glorious sunshine, with little indication of the downpour we were to experience later, when we gathered at Gunn's Gully for our March excursion. We were led by Dr Rod Griffin, who had been guest speaker at our meeting the previous evening, and was to introduce us to the Eucalypts which grow in our area.

He was accompanied by his daughter Bronwyn, whose presence and assistance added to the enjoyment of the day, and assisted by Philip Smithurst who looked up various references for us. After our president had chased up and fined those for not wearing name tags, eight vehicles set off.

We travelled along the highway towards Morwell, then had an excellent view of the smog enshrouded Valley as we crossed the overpass at the Yallourn turnoff. Our first stop was on Vary's Track, where we were greeted by the call of a Yellow Robin and four different species of Eucalypt.

In a lower-lying gully area was E. ovata, or Swamp Gum, which has a greater tolerance for waterlogged soils. Its leaves have a wavy edge and a distinct ovate shape, which gives the species its name.

At the top it had lovely smooth branches where the bark had peeled off in ribbons. On closer inspection, we were able to see some flowers.

On higher ground was E. radiata, the narrow leaved peppermint, with its many small buds (up to 20 in each cluster) and its flat-topped fruit; E. consideniana, or Yertchuk, with its large glossy leaves, unusual rough bark and wide flat dish on the fruit; and E. obliqua, or Messmate, with its stringy bark, goblet shaped fruit and unusual leaves which curve in on one side to meet the stalk at a higher point, thus giving the name "obliqua".

Rod pointed out to us that it was unusual to have species of the same subgenera growing in close proximity, but as flowering times vary they are temporarily isolated from each other and thus do not cross pollinate.

We returned to the cars and drove along the service road on the south side of the highway to our next stop, where we were introduced to E. cephalocarpa, the Silver-leaf Stringybark. This has a small, usually crooked trunk and often intrigues observant children because of its wide blue juvenile leaves, so different from the narrower, silvery, mature leaves. Koala droppings were found in the vicinity of this tree.

At this stage Don mentioned that she found the varieties of Eucalypts confusing, while Jim commented that they could drive you round the bend.

As we drove southwards, the power station could be clearly seen on our left. We turned west and stopped in Dean's Road at E. aromaphloia, or Scent Bark. It is unusual to find it in Gippsland. Some experts say it doesn't grow here, while others know better! Its coarse bark has a very pleasant, fresh smell when it is rubbed and its fruit has a domed disc with prominent valves.

MARCH EXCURSION IN THE NARRACAN DISTRICT.

Nearby was E. bridgesiana, or the Apple Box, which has very distinctive buds and fruit and narrow leaves which are longer than those of most Eucalypts. The rough bark, which goes out to the branches without peeling off, has a pungent odour. Down the hills, on the edge of the trees, some birds were flitting about and there was some discussion before it was decided the larger one was a Noisy Miner.

At our next stop, where we were joined by a ninth car, members again produced their reliable reference book, Costerman's "Trees of Victoria", and turned to E. cypellocarpa, the Mountain Grey -um. We had driven slightly upwards and Rod explained that this was as low as this species grows. These tall, straight trees have leaves up to twelve inches in length and rough bark on the base (stocking) of the trunk which comes off in strips higher up, leaving attractive yellow or whitish patches. The buds and fruits grow off a broad, flat stalk and have one or two fine ribs, making them easy to distinguish. Opposite was a plantation of pines and high above a Little Eagle soared against the blue sky.

A pleasant drive followed as we went up to Golden Gully road past plantations of Eucalypts and through natural bush with its scents and sounds drifting in through the open car windows. E. sieberi, or the Silvertop, was tall and straight, with whitish branches at the top which gives it its common name. The bark is dark grey or brown and falls off easily on the young trees to reveal an orange-brown layer beneath. In some places, the leaves had brushed off the top layer of bark. This species can hybridize with Yertchuk. Here a Grey Fantail flitted about and Jim discovered a stick insect ponderously moving along.

The bush gave way to farmlands and rolling hills, and when we stopped in Fall's Road raucous ravens and warbling magpies provided a very Australian background of noise. E. viminalis, the Panna or Ribbony Gum, is very widespread, and this was an impressive specimen. The bark peels off in long ribbons, leaving patches of grey and brown on the smooth white trunk and a rough bark stocking at the base. Usually the buds are attractively arranged in threes, in the shape of a cross.

From there we went to the farm of Gaye Cameron, where we were to spend the rest of our day. Lunch was a pleasant interlude in the garden under the shady trees. Inviting-looking hammocks were strung from the trees, but we didn't see many people daring to try them out. By this time, the fluffy white and grey clouds were beginning to build up and look ominous in the blue sky.

Before we left the garden, Rod, who had proved to be an excellent leader, used charts and a display to teach us more about Eucalypts and explain the work being done among the E. regnans on the property. We saw how, on one branch of a tree, there could be examples of three years of development from the very beginning of the buds through to flowers and the mature fruit, which finally drops to the ground.

MARCH EXCURSION IN THE HARRACAN DISTRICT. CONTD..

Many aspects of the E. regnans, or Mountain Ash, are being studied. We saw a map showing the position of each tree and a display of insects which work the flowers, but further study has to be done to ascertain at what time of day they work the flowers, at what height, their numbers and their importance. Associated weather conditions are also studied in an attempt to gauge their effect.

Along the track down to the creek flitted a male and a female Scarlet Robin, and a Grey thrush was busy down near the creek, which had stately tree-ferns scattered along its banks. Mountain Grey Gums (E. cynellocarpa) were scattered around the hills and some had lost their tops during past storms.

The biggest trees in this area probably resulted from a bush fire towards the end of last century, but there is one large tree that could be over 200 years old. It was in this district that the biggest tree in the world once grew.

About 50 mature E. regnans in the stand are being studied. Far above our heads we could see plastic bags covering blossoms that had been hand pollinated. They were so high that, at first, it seemed as if the only method of getting them there was to train nappies to carry the bags aloft. However, once the 'giant cherry picker' was pointed out with its long, extendable arm, we realised the task was really much simpler. There are three trees which are the original parent trees from which the rest have grown. The seed harvested from the hand-pollinated flowers is planted and grown, then from the characteristics of those plants it is possible to determine which are the parent trees of those in the stand.

Courageous members of the group were offered a ride in the basket of the "cherry picker", but those who were chicken-hearted stayed firmly on the ground. Bart and Philip collected insect specimens when aloft, while Jim took photos of those below when he and Bronwyn were aboard. For them, the arm was extended to almost its full height of 75 Feet.

Gaye deposited Peg and Don on the ground after taking them for a low, less nerve-racking ride, though Peg still managed to disappear somehow from view during part of the ride. Val and Estelle were willing to go from there back to the arm's original position, but had a much higher ride than expected when the "elbow" caught on a branch and had to be manoeuvred free. All of the intrepid adventurers who went aloft thought it a highlight of an extremely interesting and informative day.

Rod's skill as a leader and imparter of knowledge was evident when at the end of our excursion, Don admitted that she was no longer quite so confused about eucalypts. Certainly Jim didn't look to have gone around the bend. It was a wonderful day that concluded with our grateful thanks to Rod, Gaye and Philip, just before the skies opened up to release a downpour of rain.

Estelle Adams.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 21st 1982LATROBE VALLEY FORUM

The Greening of the Valley was discussed in view of the articles printed in the local press. Mr Lubcke has given the views of the Club to the Forum on this matter.

BONESEED The infestation in the Giffard area will be dealt with after we had sent a letter to the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Authority .

ZOO TRIP. This is postponed until later in the year due to the fact that our speaker for the May meeting will be travelling by car and will stay overnight. It was unpracticable to have the train trip.

We will visit Mr Brunby at Nevry and travel to Sale Common later in the day.

A.C.F. have a campaign "Launch a Tree" for World environment Day June 5th

A petition from the C.C.V requesting signatures re the Mines Bill which they would like amended. The petition will be taken to the General meeting of the club.

Publications Received.

Geelong Naturalist

H.T.Naturalist

C.C.V.Environment Victoria

S.G.A.P.Maroondah Group Newsletter

VETA magazine (NZ)

TRARALGON SOUTH RESERVE. Bikes still able to enter reserve in spite of fence provided by our Club. The Shire Engineer to be advised of the problem.

The last issue of Naturalist gave thanks to the H.P.Rangers and named Tim O'Connor as one of the Rangers . We should have said Tim Buttal who was concerned with the activities. This was an error by the Secretary.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday May 26th at the home of Mrs Peterson 14 Barry St Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster May 28th Mrs Plant Mrs Reeves.

It was with sorrow that we learned of the death of Mr Don Lyndon on April 27th. Mr Lyndon was a foundation member of the Club and has worked for the conservation of our environment for many years. Our sincere sympathy to Mrs Lyndon from all L.V.F.N.C. members. Many Club members were at the service and flowers have been sent on our behalf.

Part of the Metropolitan celebration of "World Environment Day" as planned by the Victorian National Parks Association is an environmental walk in the afternoon in various National Parks within reach of Melbourne.

On June 5th at 1pm a 2 hour walk is planned in Mt Worth Park by the friends of Mt Worth group.

The walk will commence from Possum Hollow Picnic area, which is within the park Possum Hollow is just past the first bridge over the Tarwin River on the River Road south from Darnum.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows

| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O.Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. <u>WARRAGUL.</u> |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall. <u>BAIRNSDALE.</u> |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

| | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Mrs A. Stewart P.O.Box 109 NEUBOROUGH 3828 | |
| NATURALIST \$6.00 | FAMILY \$8.00 | SINGLE MEMBERS \$ 7.00 |

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the
Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club.
Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

Hon Editor. Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Rd.
Neuborough 3828.

JUNE, 1982.

ISSUE No. 222.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist



Protect and enjoy

50c.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne for transmission by Post as a Periodical Category B.

COMING EVENTS.

HARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING

Friday June 18th

Mr G. Crossman "Constones"

EXCURSION:

Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:

Friday June 25th

SPEAKER:

Mr Ian Gibson (L.V. Forum Member)

"Environment of the Valley"

EXCURSION:

Saturday June 26th to Traralgon sth

Loy Yang area.

MEETING PLACE:

Kernot Hall at 10.00 am.

- YEAR OF THE TREE.

The following is the list of trees forwarded to Morwell Shire as a Club project. If you know of any trees not listed here please send details to the Secretary who will be pleased to forward the information.

Eucalyptus varraensis At least 20 of these trees are growing on Old Midland Highway, opposite Elderly citizens flats.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon (white iron bark, var. rosea cult.) This tree is about 60 years old growing in Commercial Rd School grounds.

Eucalyptus citriodora (Lemon scented gum) There is a beautiful specimen growing at Commercial Rd. Bus Terminal Morwell.

Eucalyptus rubida (Candlebark) A stand of mature trees and saplings are growing on the corner of Old Melbourne Rd and Latrobe Rd. Morwell. They are also scattered along the west side of Old Midland Highway near the Pondage.

Eucalyptus viminalis (Manna gum) There is a fine specimen of fair age in front of the home of Mr H. Godridge, Old Melbourne Rd. Morwell.

Eucalyptus bridgesiana (Apple box or Dut-but) These trees are scattered all along Old Melbourne Rd. and a particularly fine specimen stands in front of the Morwell West School House.

(b) Two good specimens stand at Holmes Rd entrance to Morwell High School. These trees are of natural growth.

(c) A very large tree stands at the corner of Manuels Rd and Tyers Road Tyers. This is a very mature tree.

Eucalyptus botryoides (Southern Mahogany) These trees are growing on the west side of Old Midland Highway opposite Pondage.

Eucalyptus pauciflora (White Sallee or Snow Gum) There is a natural occurrence of these trees along Old Midland Highway. Seed was taken from these trees and further plantings made near the original trees.

(b) There is also a small stand on Madenbousch Rd. Morwell Sth. of the Men's quarters.

Eucalyptus globulus (Blue Gum)

Eucalyptus globulus var. pseudoglobulus

Eucalyptus viminalis (Manna Gum)

All these trees are growing at Junction Picnic Reserve, and all are particularly fine specimens.

Poplars There is a fine line of Poplars on Flossom Flat, Near Tom's Bridge.

Old Garden Block 427 Barbor Rd Tyers. this garden was planted many years ago and has still some fine old trees of note. Six large oaks, poplars, elms and willows.

Catalpa Three of these unusual exotic trees grow opposite Boolarra P.O.

Pinus pinaster, (maritime pine) Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine)

These form a most attractive grove, with various shaped cones and some with beautifully patterned trunks at Boolarra Railway Reserve.

A WEEK AT ROTONAH ISLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY.

Early in December we went to Rotonah Island to take part in a "Bird in the Hand" course. Access to the Island is by boat either from Paynesville, or from Trapper Point in the Lakes National Park. We left our car at Trapper Point and the warden came across to collect us, our sleeping bags, binoculars, camera and clothes necessary for a week of informal living at the Bird Observatory. The Observatory, which is a former farm house leased from the National Parks Service, is well suited to its present use with wide views from the windows and verandahs across lakes Reeve and Victoria to the north and around the areas closer to the house. Sighting birds from the lounge or meal table really made bird watching easy, as Pelicans, Swans, cormorants, Terns, white-faced Herons, Silver Gulls, and Grebes were all seen at times on the water, while Masked Lapwings, Willy Wagtails, Noisy Miners, Welcome Swallows, Magpie Larks, Magpies and Little Ravens were often on the grass in front of the house.

Already at the Observatory when we arrived were four American students doing research as part of their University courses, an assistant warden and a trainee warden. Two other persons joined the "Bird in Hand" course which was conducted by the Warden. Breakfasts were help yourself meals as people rose at different times depending on what they were doing each day. One of the American lasses was studying the kangaroos on the island and was out before first light each day and usually came for breakfast as the rest of us were finishing as she was noting where "her" animals were sleeping, feeding and moving throughout the day. Whoever was handy helped the warden prepare lunch, and the evening meal was prepared by each of the wardens in turn. Everyone helped with dishes or table setting at some time. Water supply was from rainwater tanks so its use had to be carefully watched.

After lunch on our first day we were taken out to set lines of mammal traps as these small creatures were being checked by the asst. warden. New experience for all of us crawling through tick riddled scrub to set and check these traps twice or thrice daily! In the course of these walks to traps and back there was plenty of opportunity to spot a wide variety of birds. Emus stalked across the areas once cleared for farmland, White-breasted Eagles, Brown Falcons and other raptors were high overhead, Spine-tailed Swifts and Tree Martins flew at a lower level, and in the forest there were Cuckoos Fan-tailed, Horsfield Bronze and Shining Bronze, both Grey Fantails and Rufous Fantails, Yellow Robins, Rufous Whistlers, Brown thornbills, Scrub Wrens and Blue Wrens, Yellow-faced and White-eared Honeyeaters, and both Crimson and Eastern Rosellas.

Later on the first afternoon we were taken out and shown how the nets were set to catch birds for banding. Unfortunately the weather became very windy and it was not possible to net in these positions so a couple of days later the nets were moved to more sheltered sites where birds were netted and banded. While we waited for the wind to lessen there was an opportunity to explore the island and walk across a causeway to part of the Ninety Mile Beach.

A WEEK AT ROTOMAH ISLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY.

contd...

There were plenty of birds to interest us and the chance to see some of the plants of the island. Sessions back at the Observatory alternated with outdoor activity. At these we were shown some of the details which are learned by having banded birds. Those which are recaptured provide data as to their growth or distribution. Each night there was a bird count of all birds seen each day and listing of the animals seen and their location.

When the wind abated enough for the nets to be used it was most interesting checking each of the four nets to see what birds had been caught. Usually it was Yellow Robins, Blue Wrens, thornbills or Grey Fantails, but one morning a pair of Eastern whipbirds were caught. Unfortunately before they could be released a Grey Currawong swooped in and killed one so only one of the pair was banded. Only persons with a bird bander's licence issued by Fisheries and Wildlife Department can net and band birds so we observers were used as runners to check the nets for birds and let the banders know which nets had birds caught in their shelves. The "shelf" in the net is formed by taut nylon lines across each net which allows the netting to fall below this line forming horizontal pleats. Not all birds were caught in the shelves as many became entangled in the net just where they flew into it. Releasing each bird from the fine mesh of the nets was a very delicate job requiring gentle hands and good eyesight. We were shown the correct way to handle each bird and allowed to hold some before they were released near each net where they had been caught in the hope that they would fly away and not be caught in the net a second time. Netting took place very early each morning and continued until birds stopped being caught, and again late in the afternoon until dark to write each recording of the age, sex, state of feathers (whether worn or fresh or moult stage), weight, head and tarsal measurements, band number, date and time of day.

Two of our group discovered nesting birds. A Grey Fantail had a nest on the lowest branch of a Coast Wattle beside the track where we walked each day, and the nest hole of a Crimson Rosella was in a dead Eucalypt by one of the trapping lines. There were five fluffy young birds in the Rosella's nest and the warden was able to band these and three young Fantails before they left their nests.

The mammal traps were baited with balls of oatmeal, fat and honey but caught only three animals during the entire week. A sickly Swamp Rat was caught one day and another much livelier Swamp Rat along the same line the next day. One set of traps was placed on the lower limbs of the eucalypts and one of these caught a Common Ring-tail Possum with a young one in its pouch. The lively rat and the female possum were ear tagged before they were released, so that they could be recognised on future spot-lighting or trapping occasions. The sickly rat was not tagged as it was thought a tag would be wasted on it. Which would have been in this case as it was found dead the day after it was released.

contd...pp 4

A WEEK AT ROTOMAH ISLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY contd...

During our stay we listed 67 different birds, but other sharper eyed and more experienced bird watchers saw many more. We felt the time spent at Rotomah was well worth while and would like to pay a winter or spring time visit there. At those times we hear there is not the need for insect repellent which some of us had to use to keep the flies, mosquitoes and ticks at bay.

B.P. BREWSTER.

I see that a course in NATURAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHY will be held at Rotomah October 1-4 1982.

Contact RAOU, 21 Gladstone St. Moonee Ponds 3039, Tel (03) 370 1272

This is within the pest free? period. Ed.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY.

Mr Peter LThomas, Ranger of Wilson's Promontory National Park was guest speaker at our meeting held 23/4/82 and it was pleasing to see a large attendance of members and visitors.

Wilson's Promontory originally known as Furneaux Land because of its proximity to the Furneaux group of Islands, was named by Mathew Flinders after a friend of his Thomas Wilson. Most of the mountains on the Prom. are named after members of the Admiralty.

To assist Peter with his talk he showed us a series of lovely slides many early photos had been taken by Jock Kershaw, a Photographer using glass plates, in 1900-1912-1920 (imagine carrying camera gear weighing about 1 cwt around in dense scrub and having to be careful not to drop those precious glass plates)

Beginning around the year 1880 when three members of the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, Gregory, Lucas and Robinson felt that it was time something was done to preserve Wilson's Promontory as a National Park. They continued to bring pressure to bear on the Government saying that with better means of transport and more leisure time people needed places to go to and eventually the Government conceded to reserve the Promontory as a National Park in 1905. Ten years later the beach-line was also included as part of the park making a total of 4900 hectares. Wilson's Promontory was one of Victoria's first or very early National Parks.

Peter outlined some of the early history of the Promontory, which is a very rugged piece of land with big boulders rising out of the sand. Early trips by Field Naturalists had to be taken by boat across Corner Inlet over to camp at Millers Landing. Cost of the trip for a 10 day holiday was 14/6 (fourteen shillings and sixpence or \$1.45 cents) to cover transport, hire of horses food etc. Starting at Foster they went to Dennison took a trolley to Port Franklin, boarded an ocean going vessel to cross Corner Inlet to Millers Landing and camped nearby.

contd...pp 5

WILSONS PROMONTORY

contd....

Next morning they picked up their horses, which were kept at Millers Landing and moved across the headlands to Darby River where they made base camp. At Darby River there was a hut used by the P.N.G. when they put the telegraph line down the centre of the Promontory in 1860 to the Lighthouse.

From here the Naturalists would set out on various hikes of 2 or 3 days duration, women joining the men. One of these hikes went to Sealers Cove. Looking back to Darby river along the Darby Saddle is where the telegraph line ran and that is roughly where the road runs today.

Sealers Cove had very lush vegetation, temperate rain forest which changed drastically with bush fires and although there have been no serious fires for 50 years there is still nowhere near the lush growth of Myrtle Beech and various ferns of the early days. Sealers Cove was one of the larger towns in the early days with a population of about 60 people. It had a history of fur and oil from 1800-1840 and when seals were wiped out they were followed by the timber industry. The jetty played an important part in the history along with two saw mills. As much as 2,000,000 super feet of timber in one year was taken out, much of it going to England. Old photos give the history of timber workings, saw benches and mills. Owing to fires which frequently took place after "burn offs" to clear undergrowth for timber cutters and provide pasture growth for cattle, very little of the mills now remain. Timber was taken out from Sealers Cove on an old steamer which called there.

It is pleasing to note that seals are gradually increasing and present population spread over 1 or 2 islands is thought to be 2,000.

Jock Kershaw came seeking various types of crustacea. JOCK AND his party made base camp at Lilly Pilly Gully below Bishops Mount. Some of the camps were quite sophisticated for those days and we saw slides of the camping party at Christmas dinner with white tablecloths and all the trimmings!! and then to snooze after dining in a camp bed in a bark and teatree shelter.

Lilly Pilly Gully was an incredibly damp swamp, thick and dense with many leeches, in many ways similar to Sealers Cove with masses of ferns, Kangaroo Ferns, Spleenwort, Myrtle Beech, Lilly Pilly trees.

On various trips to the Prom the Naturalists brought with them Kangaroos, Emus, Lyrebirds, Mallee Fowl and introduced various plants and trees from other areas, with a view to save them from extinction. It does not appear that many of these plants survived. When the V.F.N.C. visited the Prom in 1980 one palm was found in a remote gully having survived for 60 years.

It is thought that there may have been a ranger at the park as early as 1910 but the whole idea of park management is totally different today.

Pearl Reeves.

The remainder of this article will be included in July Naturalist.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MAY 26th 1982.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. 15 groups of trees have been notified to Horwell Shire as a Club effort for this year.

ZOO TRIP Decided that this will be held September 11th 1982.

Publications received.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A.C.F. Directory | Horwell Nat. Park plant list |
| C.C.V. Newsletter | Native Forest Action Petition re |
| H.T. Naturalist | woodchipping in East Gippsland. |
| S.G.A.P. Haroondah Group Newsletter | HE. Naturalist (Tas) |
| Geelong Naturalist | ECOS |
| WETA(NZ) | World Wildlife Fund Newsletter |
| RAOU Courses. | Ministry of Conservation Summary. |

Australia Post advises that a 12½ % increase will take effect from October 11th 1982.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA.

Details forwarded by Department of Home Affairs and Environment, who request comments and submissions by September 15th.

A letter to be written to Harracan Shire requesting consideration be given to a roadside reserve along McDonalds Track at Harracan.

Hinterland Report L.C.C. Submission being prepared.

The next committee meeting will be held June 23rd at the home of Mr and Mrs McElroy 35 Latrobe Road Horwell at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster June 25th. Mrs Ringin Mrs Thompson.

Details of RAOU Courses printed in this issue.

A note from Mrs Lyndon

I would like to thank all of our dear friends in the Club for their flowers, cards, and expressions of sympathy in the recent loss of my dear husband and companion of close on 50 years.
I greatly appreciated their support.

NATURE NOTE.

In a dry summer such as we have lately experienced some unusual things turn up. In January we became aware that we had lots of great brown Stick Insects, or Phasmids, in the garden. One measured 5 inches or almost 13 centimetres in body length, and would have been much longer with legs extended. These curious creatures feed by night and rely on their perfect mimicry to hide them from predators during the day. They live on the leaves of trees and, if they appear in plagues, as they sometimes do, can fairly strip a forest. Ours gave no visible trouble and looked rather handsome. They are the giants of the insect world.

Ellen Lyndon.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. MOE |
| <u>SALE F.N.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O. Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street SALE |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL. |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall. BAIRNSDALE. |

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Mrs A. Stewart
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NEWBOROUGH 3828

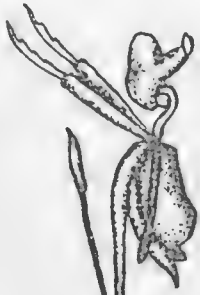
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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.
MEETING

Friday July 16th
Members night.

EXCURSION

Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING
SPEAKER

Friday July 23rd.
Mrs. Don Thompson
"Beauty and Variations of Ferns"

EXCURSION
MEETING PLACE

Bulga Park area
Traralgon High School at 10.00a.m.

200 EXCURSION: *Saturday September 11th. all names to be in by end of July.*

WILSONS PROMONTORY.

contd...

More people were starting to come and visit the area to see what the Promontory had to offer. Early transport was horse or bike and now and again motor bikes. Vehicles went along the beach from Cotter Beach 14 miles to Shelley Inlet, later came cars and buses. The sand was soft and sometimes the vehicles became bogged - this was alright if the tide was out, but it was a different story if the tide was coming in, as several slides showed.

During a boat trip last year to check on the bird population, it was noted 13 individual sea eagles, 10 breeding pairs, which is quite a significant population of these birds. They build a large stick nest in a tree, or sometimes on a big rock and this is added to year after year. Pied Oystercatchers and Sooty Oystercatchers are also to be seen in fairly good numbers.

Natural History is high at the Prom. In the 1890's some 2000 Koalas a year were taken for the fur trade, recovering from this period they then faced the serious bush fires 30 years ago, but their numbers now appear to be building up again. Various types of Lizards - skink the most common, a couple found on the Prom are similar to others in Tasmania which helped to strengthen the bond with Tasmania. Snakes found on the Prom are mostly Tiger snakes and Copperheads. Building up in numbers are swamp wallabies, various frogs. tree frogs being the most common. In most cases, bird, plant life are more related to Tasmania and have a clear association with Tasmania than with Victoria. Common bush birds are Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Golden Whistler and the friendly Yellow Robin. There are magnificent stands of Banksia serrata forming whole forests. Walking tracks lead to fern gullies which are quite different to open heathlands. Large areas are covered with soft bracken fern and beautiful mosses while in secluded fern gullies beautiful patterns are made by the fern leaves. On the heathlands some 600 different plant species have been recorded, and there is always something in flower, at the moment (April) the pink heath and *correa reflexa* are adding splashes of colour. Fungi occurs all over the Prom in dark damp places and on rotten logs and vegetation in a wealth of beautiful colours and shapes.

People still come to see the Prom for virtually the same reason as they did in the early 1900's. When the area was created a National Park it was to save the natural history and scenic beauty and many of these values remain unchanged. The lovely granite rocks; Tongue Point, some parts of Sealers Cove remain untouched, with no hotels etc, its values have been protected.

With the dramatic change in travel and transport in recent years the Prom has an average attendance of 35000 visitors per year against 350 people in earlier times. People came for all sorts of reasons, to take in the expanse of beautiful large areas, to enjoy the ever changing moods and beauty of the coast line.

Beautiful sunsets and quiet serenity are all part of this wonderful area.

Pearl Reeves.

EXCURSION TO WILSON'S PROMONTORY.

10 cars assembled at Yanakie for our excursion to Wilson's Promontory, perfect weather and the actual sightings started even before we moved off, with 7 White-faced Herons circling around and then flying off.

We met Mr. Peter Thomas at the entrance to the park and he led us along to the Miller's Landing Road passing Banksia serrata and Banksia marginata in bloom and the sheokes (Casuarina stricta) with their drooping grey green foliage and heavy laden with orange flowers. One couldn't help but notice the different colour greens, the different heights of the trees, the way the sun was shining through these beautiful trees... it really made a picture, in striking contrast to the acres of the same green, same height of the dark depressing pines that we had earlier travelled through. Mr. Thomas explained that the area bordering Miller's Landing Road had been slashed as part of the management policy of the park in order that any bush fires that may occur can be stopped or at least slowed down and not grow to uncontrollable limits as in earlier days. The area, in general was very dry particularly this year.

Armed with the trail brochure provided we set off for a very lovely walk through the heathlands, noting all items mentioned in the pamphlet and many others besides. The Eucalypts in this area are fairly stunted to the normal ones because of the dry conditions and a soil deficiency. However we stopped and studied the tree and with the help of Costermans' "Trees of Victoria" and Dr. Griffin's address the previous month we finally came up with the right answer.. Eucalyptus obliqua.

A little find was Pterostylis parvaflora out in bloom, this little greenhood orchid had two flowers and looked for all the world like a pair of boxing gloves. Sweet Wattle Acacia suavelons was just beginning to bloom as was the common heath Epacris impressa, Cranberry heath Astrorhiza humifusa, Correa reflexa, and Tetratheca pilosa. Several species of Linnaea flowers were seen but we were just a little too early for this area as regards the flowers, however these heathlands are a favourite spot for Honeyeaters and we saw Crescent and Yellow-winged honeyeaters, Eastern spinebills and Wattle birds all feasting on the Banksias and by the way they were chattering it seemed as if it was a good meal. When we reached Miller's Landing, the area where visitors to the Promontory in earlier days landed, the tide was in so we could only see the tops of the Mangrove trees.....these trees themselves were worth the walk as they were growing in conditions not usually considered good for mangroves... it being far too cold, however these were surviving and are in fact the most southerly mangroves in the world. Mangrove swamps are always good for water birds and hundreds of birds were sighted, Little-pied cormorants, black swans, sea-gulls and ducks. Just behind the actual beach was an area

EXCURSION TO WILSON'S PROMONTORY

contd.

swamp and underneath the paper bark trees were large granite boulders covered with Kangaroo ferns, it really was a pretty sight. On the way back to the cars several fungi were sighted, mainly belonging to the Boletus family... has tubes instead of gills as with normal "mushrooms". We had lunch and then went back towards the main road of the park, but stopped to find the little parson's Bands orchid Eriochilus cucullatus and while searching we found the tiny Drosera pygmaea with its young leaves forming a silver hairy centre rosette. We then headed for the hills, passing Darby River Flats where about 8 Emus were grazing, Emus were introduced to the area in about 1909 and seem to be doing well.

At Darby Saddle we walked along a fairly easy graded track noting the change in vegetation to that of the heathlands. Banksia spinulosa was blooming and a very beautiful little forest of Pterostylis longifolia - was growing but not yet in flower. The high side of the track was just covered in places with ferns. A little "idge orchid, Prasophyllum??? was seen, these little orchids just looked like grass in seed until one looks more closely, however Peter seemed to think it would probably be P. morrisii, not rare but rarely seen". We walked through a grove of sheokes and it was so peaceful the "leaves" on the ground deadening our footsteps, then finally onto Sparkes Lookout and what a lovely view. The group of islands known as the Anser Group which include Rodondo, Anser, Kanowna, Anderson and Cleft Island looked perfect. It was a perfect day and one could look for miles taking in the natural beauty of the area and appreciate the forethought of those early Naturalists and others who fought so hard and so long to have this area set aside as a National Park.

On the way home 12 Kangaroos were standing at the exit gate more or less waving us goodbye made for a perfect finale to a perfect day. Many thanks to Mr. Peter Thomas for his outstanding leadership.

Iris Peterson.

Mrs. A. Morrison has asked us to thank, through the Latrobe Valley Naturalist, all the many members who have sent letters and cards since Alan's illness and for his 81st., birthday she says "We deeply appreciated their love and good wishes, but I cannot possibly answer them all; perhaps I can someday".

We have assured her that no one expects her to reply or wishes her to make that effort, and our thoughts are still with them.

A beautiful book has just been published; a revision of Ernest Lord's "SHRUBS AND TREES FOR AUSTRALIAN GARDENS". Revised by Dr. Willis and with hundreds of new illustrations from colour photographs, many by Dr. Willis but over 200 by Alan Morrison.

Jean Galbraith

MORWELL NATIONAL PARK - A REGIONAL PARK?

The club executive is concerned because the Land Conservation Council has proposed that the present Morwell National Park in future be given the name of Morwell Regional Park with all that it means.

The definition of a regional park, according to the proposed recommendations is "an area of public land, readily accessible from urban centres or a major tourist route, set aside primarily to provide recreation for large numbers of people in natural or semi-natural surroundings. These parks would be intensively developed for informal recreation and could include road systems. Although natural beauty would enhance their value, closeness to an urban centre is more important than natural attributes. Other uses - such as timber-harvesting, fossicking and stone extraction - may be permitted where they are compatible with the primary use".

Before the National Park was finally declared Mrs. Lyndon had spent ten years trying to arouse interest in this special area before the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club was even thought of. After the Club was formed it took up the effort to help Mrs. Lyndon. It was another seven years before the park was finally declared. This was only achieved after the Morwell Shire Council and the Government of the day contributed sufficient moneys to buy the land.

Being downgraded to a Regional Park destroys the original concept of preservation of the special flora, the Butterfly Orchid and the Oval Fork Fern, which grows in Fosters Gully. A Regional Park concept would be detrimental to the preservation of this flora. The Butterfly Orchid hasn't been found in either Bulga or Tarra Valley National Parks. The Oval Fork Fern is only recorded in 3 of the 24 sections of the State. Of later years the Tasmanian Fork Fern has also been reported in the Morwell National Park and this is only the second section of the State for this fern. The total plant list for the area contains 312 species and the Club bird list has 66 species.

MORWELL NATIONAL PARK- A REGIONAL PARK contd.

This park was formed long before the population increase in the Latrobe Valley and rural areas. The park has the capacity for passive recreation without destroying the environment for the native species; but needs the classification of a National Park to preserve it from the harmful facets of the regional park classification.

We are anxious that members please write individually to the Secretary. Land Conservation Council, 464, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004 and state why you think the Morwell National Park should retain the name and not be classified as a regional park.

Bulga and Tarra Valley National Parks have been combined and extended to 960 hectares but this time they are named the Strzelecki State Park. This area is of national importance because of the fine fern gullies and the large trees and is very well known throughout the tourist world.

Could you also include a request that this park retain the National Park status in your submission which has to be at the L.C.C. by 16th. August 1982.

Bon Thompson.

PENGUINS OF ANTARTICA

In the comfort of a warm hall and soft chairs we were taken on a trip to the Antartic where we heard the sounds of breaking ice, creaking ships, mating calls of Penguins and Seals, plus storms and howling winds. These sounds were accompanied by slides and shown by Dr. Myfanwy Beadnell in her talk on "Penguins and the Antartic". The expedition left Hobart in 1971, and lectures were held two or three times a day all the time they were away at sea.

Antartica is one of the lands of the Midnight Sun and a very cruel place as winds travel across it at more than 130 miles per hour and the lowest temperature that was recorded was 137 degrees F. below. They called at numerous islands before reaching the main continent. In 1875 Baron Von Mueller thought that Macquarie Island would be an ideal situation for a good weather station, but it was not until 1930 that this was achieved. There are 17 species of Penguins and they all live south of the equator ranging in size from the Fairy Penguin 14" to the Emperor Penguin which is 3½' high. Four sorts of Penguins are on Macquarie Island, Gentoos, which have a white flash on the cheek, the Kings which have a yellow marking, The Rockhoppers, and the Royals. The King and Emperor are similar to each other both very big birds of which the larger is the Emperor. They are very highly adapted for the environment in which they live. They are awkward on land but in the sea, their motion is described as flying in water, rather than swimming.

Jim Hall.

The remainder of this article will be included in August Naturalist/

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23rd 1982.Publications received.

C.C.V. agenda and minutes of meeting. S.G.A.P. newsletter.

Northern Territory Naturalist. Victorian Naturalist.

Submission has been sent for the Gippsland Lakes Hinterland area.

L.C.C. proposed recommendations for South Gippsland Study area No. 2 have been received and found satisfactory

Correspondence: Reply from Narracan Shire - re Memorial Drive to Mr. B. Auchterlonie to be discussed at July Council meeting.

Next survey for Orange Bellied Parrot 24-25 July. Salt Marshes.

ROTAMAH ISLAND:- Natural History Photography Course - 1st-4th October.

Treasurers report:- \$624.58 balance.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday July 21st at the home of Mrs. P. Reeves, 7, Whittakers Road, Traralgon 3844 at 7.30.p.m.

Supper Roster:- July 23rd Mrs. J. Lubeke Mrs. P. Wall

WANTED OLD PICTURES: The National Parks Service is appealing to the public for historic photographs of the Promontory. The older the better preferably photos taken before 1950. The photos will be on display at the new Tidal River Centre as part of a programme telling tourists about the "Proms" history. People with photographs they feel might be useful should phone the National Parks Service on 651-4011.

1982 AUSTRALIAN BIRD CALL IMITATION CHAMPIONSHIP: Sat. 28th August at Maryborough Contact:- Mrs. E. Courtney, 45, Carrick St, Maryborough. M.F.N.C

We were sorry to hear of the death of Miss Jane Purbrick's father. Our sincere sympathy to Jane's family. A few club members attended the funeral.

A CURIOUS FORM OF A. KITSONIANA.

Out at the Koonwarra sandpits one of a row of Bog gums that originally came from H.R.C.L. is a different form from its fellows. It is a natural weeping form and if grafted on to a standard would be sensational. Being flat on the ground its sinuous limbs corkscrew in different directions, as if trying to burrow into the earth. They have been damaged somewhat by motor bikes but still manage to set a few flowers and capsules. The chances are, however, that any progeny would follow the normal pattern, and that this is merely an aberrant form, or, to put it plainly, a fluke.

Ellen Lyndon.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, NORWELL 3840 'phone 342128 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>HOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O. Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. WARRAGUL. |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE. 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall. BAIRNSDALE. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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AUGUST, 1982.

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COMING EVENTS.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:

Friday 27th August

SPEAKER:

Mrs. E. Lyndon

SUBJECT:

"Fungi"

EXCURSION:

Darlimurla.

MEETING PLACE:

Pump House, Mountain Hut Road.
10.00a.m.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

No information to hand.

PENGUINS OF ANTARTICA*contd.*

Penguins are hot blooded birds and they have various methods of keeping warm, such as the layer of blubber underneath the skin, and an undercoating of thick down which covers the body and provides insulation under the feathers. Their short legs are set well back on their bodies which enables them to steer in the water or stand upright on land, also their toenails are long and their feet are webbed. During the breeding season, of the King and Emperor Penguins a curtain of feathers grow near the feet of the Penguin and this curtain keeps the eggs warm while incubation takes place. The Emperors live far out on the sea ice, and lay their eggs on the ice, then they have to walk 60 miles over the ice to the sea to get fish. The male carries the eggs on his feet while the female goes to obtain the food. The male and female take turns at incubating the eggs. The male incubates the egg entirely by himself for three months and then the female takes over. The Kings are the only birds that mate twice in three years, one early, one late and one it misses.

One thing that applies to Penguins and Seals and all diving animals is that they have a special way of conserving oxygen under water by stopping the circulation to the lungs and slowing the heart beat down. There are three species of flippered animals the Walrus which is not seen south of the equator, the second is the true seal which has backward pointing flippers, and can only ripple along the ground, (it does not walk) and it has no external ears. The third is the Eared Seal of which there are two kinds, the Furred Seal common around the Southern Australian coast, and the Sea Lion. These have quite a different motion in swimming and can walk on land. Among the Antarctic true seal is the Elephant Seal which can grow up to six metres long and has a huge proboscis which it blows up on mating or fighting.

The only other animal life are flies and insects of which there is a huge variety. The plant life consists entirely of Algae and Lichens except on the extension north of the Antarctic circle, south of the Argentine.

Slides showing the Penguins, Seals, the Ice Shelf which is two miles deep (and is made of fresh water) Pack Ice, Icebergs, Albatross, Skuas, and the Scott and Shackleton Huts, which have been preserved as memorials to the explorers, were presented and commented upon. The expedition completed its journey at New Zealand.

Jim Wall.

THE MAY EXCURSION TO NEWRY, LAKE GUTHERIDGE AND MOLEY HILL.

For the second time - though a first for many of us - we visited Mr. Brumby's farm at Newry on a gentle day of grey skies breaking here and there into blue, a perfect day for bird watching, and an environment strange to many of us. There were scattered Red Gums, and level pastures were broken by distant pools and the misty gold of Willows and Elms. Here and there Ibis were feeding, a large flock near the lagoon as we reached the farm, where both Australian and exotic birds are bred. Most of them are rare - some very rare, and some of the Australian species have disappeared from their natural habitat. When that is so they are bred on the extensive lagoon on the farm, and restored to their original habitat if it is still suitable for them.

This lagoon was so sheltered by shrubs and trees that it was barely visible from the drive that led to the house and aviaries. There were twitterings and occasional strange calls as we approached and a handsome young Peacock walked slowly past. A white one was seen later on a fence beyond a pen where a pair of Cape Barren Geese were nesting. The smooth hen bird sat on her nest in a clump of Sedge.

Mrs. Brumby kindly gave up her morning to show us the birds as her husband was away and led us past the geese and other pens. In one of them a pair of Mandarins were spectacular, the drake in Black and white with his chestnut breast braceleted by black and white lines, his mate less brilliant but still decorative. Rounding the end of the leafy enclosures we turned back by another path bordered now by wire meshed flight aviaries with the wire almost hidden by shrubs and creepers. They were partly open and partly covered, with here and there an electric light burning to raise the temperature a little.

Sharp twitterings drew attention to South African Peach-faced Finches, their lovely peach-pink shading into delicate green. Few, if any of us had seen them before. We had glimpses of Pigeons and Quail, often disappearing amongst the growing things, while, in and out through the meshes, and helping themselves to seed from time to time, were two species of our small colourful Victorian Finches, Red-browed Finch and Diamond Firetail. Slender Crested Cockateils, their soft grey and lemon enhanced by the spot of red behind each eye, fluttered and murmured to each other, looking down on us from high perches.

We moved on, past the garden with its late roses, to the long lagoon, shaded by willows with nesting boxes in forks and on stumps or logs, usually approached by unobtrusive little raised steps. A thick bordering of shrubs almost hid the water and its birds until we walked through a gate in the netting that enclosed them - past a pair of small Wallabies, to the waters edge. Then we could see the beautiful birds that lived there, Shelducks and Mandarins, Pigmy

THE MAY EXCURSION TO NEWRY.....

contd...

Geese, miniatures amongst the rest, not twice the size of a Stubble Quail. The males were velvet black above, and white below, the females with white heads and finely striped backs. Bright brown Burdekin Ducks with black heads, marked with a triangle of white, and black and white Canada Geese were in sections of the lagoon, and there were beige and brown and pink Egyptian Geese - one cannot even list them all.

One long stretch of water could well have been called the Nursery for it was occupied by Cygnets, and fledglings of many species, all seeming happily at home. Farther on a netting fence separated four mature white swans from their children, hatched last year. This was necessary as otherwise the young birds would have been driven away by their parents. This would not be necessary in the wild where food is unlimited in any one place. Strange cries and quacks and calls came from all directions. It was a memorable experience.

We gathered round the cars to thank our helpful guide before leaving. We had already heard that the Brumby's are moving - but not too far away. When new stretches of waters, new shelters, and all the environment necessary for humans and birds are ready they will all move to a new home, and we hope to visit them there.

Then we moved on through those pleasant farmlands, through Maffra to Lake Guthridge in Sale. There we had lunch, with Coots, waterhens, gulls and Black swans to entertain us before we went on to Sale Common where flight after flight of birds passed over, too high for recognition. The beautiful old Red Gums surviving along the river, the Manna Gums of the roadside and Swamp Gums of the damp common made it a pleasant place, but we went on to Holey Hills National Park, enjoying the trees on the way. There were eucalypts of several species, banksias, and wattles. Sunshine Wattle bloomed on the roadside and as far back through the trees, primrose and lemon yellow in clouds, were as far back as we could see, often with the even paler but still lovely Sweet Wattle. It is good to know that their beauty will not be swallowed up in the uniformity of pines, which covers so much of those once beautiful and varied heathlands. Even in the pine plantations more recently made, beautiful native vegetation borders the roads instead of the waste of bare sand along older plantations. This accords with the Land Conservation Councils decision that firetracks must be made inside the borders of planted land, and not along the road verges.

We stopped at the new picnic area on Holey Hill, where the Amenities are well placed to allow shelter, yet a view across the wide southern landscape, and without disfiguring the ridge.

The Ranger, Mr. Peter Lawrence, was there and led a very appreciative party round the new, well-graded and very pleasant walking track, which was full of interest. Even in May orchid leaves were seen, and we passed through low thickets of the uncommon Pomaderris of Holey Hill, which will be full of golden flowers in spring.

Jean Galbraith.

ENVIRONMENT OF THE LATROBE VALLEY

"It is valid to have different views on making conclusions, and this is a consideration when making conclusions about the Latrobe Valley environment", said Mr. Ian Gibson, Lecturer in Economics at the G.I.A.E. Churchill, in his opening remarks as Guest Speaker at the June meeting.

Mr. Gibson went on to illustrate this point by showing maps, prepared by his students, with each map showing a particular feature of the Latrobe Valley, e.g. contours, rainfall, municipal boundaries, roads, vegetation, etc.

When looked at separately, each map conveyed a picture of the feature represented. However, when the maps were superimposed on each other, in effect attempting to look at all these features at the one time, the result was an unintelligible jumble. Mr. Gibson said it was necessary to clarify the specific areas, and went on to discuss some of these areas.

AIR. Report on emissions' estimates suggest significant rises by the year 2000.

WATER. Polutants into streams.
Demands on streams. (It is estimated that the residue in the Thomson River, after completion of the Thomson Dam and when Melbourne has taken its requirements, will be insufficient to meet other requirements).

LAND. Requirements for development will reduce the remnants of flora and fauna and pressure on remaining areas will be considerable. Agriculture will also be under pressure from increased charges for rates and expensive labour.

Mr. Gibson showed several tables of figures based on S.E.C.V. forecasts and S.P.A.G. (Strategic Planning Advisory Group) Task Force Predictions. He suggested that we should not so much consider the figures shown, but rather try to visualize the effect these predicted disturbances would have on the Latrobe Valley Environment.

This, to most people, would sound reasoning as, for instance:

- Who could visualize the size of a hill containing 12,500 Millon tonnes of brown coal, the total quantity which the S.E.C.V. estimates it will have used up to the year 2030; or, perhaps more importantly, visualize the size of the holes left after this quantity of coal has been extracted?
- How many slices of bread could we toast with 170,000 giga watt hours of electricity, the quantity the S.E.C.V. estimates it will be required to generate in the year 2030? The requirement for 1980 was 23,000giga watt hours. (note. A giga is 1,000Millon).
- How will the area cope with supplying the total services required

ENVIRONMENT OF THE LATROBE VALLEY

contd.

in the year 2030 to meet the needs of a population of between 141,800, under a slow growth programme, to 191,800, under a fast growth programme? The estimates are from the S.P.A.G. Predictions which Mr. Gibson felt could be somewhat optimistic.

Apart from the generation of power for the general needs of the State, Mr. Gibson said that, major developments in the Latrobe Valley will be influenced by demands of the Australian and Global Society, and to some extent controlled by the mobility of global capital, particularly in respect to electricity as fuel for other major projects, e.g. aluminium, as well as demands for paper and oil. (coal to oil conversion).

The impact of major developments on the Latrobe Valley environment can be affected by bureaucratic decisions in respect to planning and environmental protection, and by local opinion expressed in a co-ordinated and positive manner.

On the latter point, Mr. Gibson then posed the question that, assuming the Latrobe Valley environment is worth saving, what can we do?

INDIVIDUAL: Adopt conserver attitudes and lifestyle.

REGIONAL: There is a greater role for community groups who are now being listened to and whose representations are influencing decisions. However, approaches by community groups to authorities need to be co-ordinated and fragmentation avoided.

Mr. Gibson said that all aspects need to be considered in relation to continuity of employment, a suitable social environment, and a general environment acceptable to Latrobe Valley residents.

Bruce Adams.

A SPINEBILL CHANGES COLOUR

Since the many honeyeaters that used to visit my window have gone away. Spinebills have moved to the deserted nectar outside the window. They come and go all day, very handsome in their new spring plumage. The handsomest of the three regular visitors had a white tail instead of the usual dark grey, and I admired him everyday until he disappeared for about 10 days. It seemed as if his conspicuous tail had cost him his life - but he was merely completing his spring outfit. When he returned all but the margins of the conspicuous white tail was concealed by normal grey feathers, which soon covered the whole tail. The under tail feathers of Spinebills are always white. This one had returned before the grey feathers had covered the white.

Jean Galbraith.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21st JULY 1982.Publications received:

S.G.A.P., Northern Territory Naturalist, North Eastern Naturalist and C.C.V.

Submissions sent:

Victorian Brown Coal Resource Development. National Conservation Strategy for Australia, Comments on the South Gippsland Area No.2. Hill End.

Zoo Trip by train

Saturday 11th September 1982 cost:

Adults \$10.80. under 16 years. \$4.85. 16-19 years \$7.20.

Seminars:

10 members attended the seminar in Bairnsdale to learn of the progress of the Environmental Study of the Lakes area.

8 members attended the seminar at G.I.A.E. re the planning for the development likely to take place due to the S.E.C. and other major works.

Finance:

Bank Balance \$565.38.

Supper Roster:

August Miss Jean Galbraith Mrs. Honor Crane.

Next Meeting:

The next committee meeting will be held on the 25th August at the home of Mr. and Mrs E. Lubcke, 122a, Helen Street, Morwell.

Orange Bellied Parrot:

5 members went on the parrot survey on the 26th July - no sightings made.

Zoo Trip:---

All monies for the above outing by train to be in by the August meeting. Entrance fee to the Zoo: ADULTS \$4.00.

CHILDREN 4-14 years \$2.10. PENSIONERS \$1.80.

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COMING EVENTSLATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.MEETING:

Friday 24th September

SPEAKER:

Mrs. Jane Calder

SUBJECT:

"Problems Plants Face in Everyday Living".

EXCURSION:

Rosedale area

MEETING PLACE:Old Stables, Rosedale 10.00a.m.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.MEETING:

Friday 17th September

SPEAKER:

Members night, Grampians Excursion Report.

EXCURSION:

Contact Assistant Secretary:

F.E. Hanley,

Phone: 056 232747

THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT...LOY YANG TRARALGON SOUTH AREA.

11 cars assembled at Kernot Hall for an excursion aimed at showing some of the changes to the environment taking place at the moment.

We travelled to Clark's Road which is tree lined on both sides with mainly Manna Gums Eucalyptus viminalis and Apple Box Eucalyptus bridgesiana though these were not very big specimens. This section has not been widened and remains the very pretty road it has always been.

Turning off the road we saw the large High Level Dam, water filling this dam is from the Morwell Open Cut and is of second class quality. This area, as well as being used for State Electricity Commission purposes will no doubt be used by the public for aquatic sports etc. (much as the Hazelwood pondage is used today) and birds, not slow in taking advantage of the extra water are already making good use of it. A little further along a smaller dam has been built holding high quality water to be used for drinking etc.

We stopped at the area where the widening of the road was stopped and near where the orchid Pterostylis fischii used to grow. These orchids caused great excitement when first found as they were considered rare and not recorded for this area. When the Traralgon Council started widening the road our club was most concerned for the roadside vegetation in general and for the orchids in particular and asked that special consideration be given to the area and also that a fence be erected around the orchids in an effort to protect them, this was done, but over the years the bulldozing came perilously close and the whole environment of the area altered. As the traffic along that quiet country road would no doubt increase due to the Loy Yang projects we felt that the only way to permanently preserve the orchids was for them to be moved to a safer location. The State Electricity Commission agreed and went to a great deal of trouble, digging around two fair sized plots holding P. fischii, boxing them, then using a 50 ton hydraulic jack lifted the two sections and transported them both several miles away to the new reserve on McCormack's Road. The difference between the area bulldozed and the untouched area was very evident on this section of Clark's Road. In the uncleared area the trees were sheltering lots of Gnat orchids Acianthus exsertus in flower, leaves of the Greenhood orchids Pterostylis curta and P. nutans, a couple of fungi and a surprise for some members.... a little mouse which remained unidentified''

We continued on through the Loy Yang Project, this huge undertaking started in 1977 and is well underway now. This is a mighty project and everything is on a "larger than life" scale, the enormous dredger which has a digging capacity of 60,000 tonnes per day, the cooling towers standing 112 metres high, the chimneys 260 metres high, the bunker is the biggest in the Southern hemisphere, conveyor systems running from the open cut to the bunker. Construction is

Contd.

THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT....

contd.

going on everywhere and will eventually cover an area 4,700 hectares and on the present estimates will cost in excess of \$3000 million.

The Old Traralgon South Reserve

This reserve has been taken over by the State Electricity Commission which is a great pity as it really holds a wonderful sample of the wildflowers growing in the area. Everything growing here seem to be just that much bigger, brighter and healthier than elsewhere. The area has been more or less cut in half by a deep drain that is evidently necessary to feed the pond which used to be the adjacent gravel pit, so it could be that at least half of the area could remain intact. The month of June is a little early for most of the flowers, but we were in for a lovely surprise as "millions" of the Autumn bird orchid (Chiloglottis reflexa) were in flower, and the Gnat orchid doing well too. A couple of Nodding Greenhoods (Pterostylis nutans) and Tall Greenhoods (P. longifolia) were early flowering while a Tiny Greenhood (P. parviflora) was very late. Several other orchid leaves were seen and would flower in the spring. The beautiful Correa (C. reflexa), such a feature of this reserve, and the common heath (Epacris impressa) added a splash of colour. A robin's nest at eye level was also found.

Mr. Young, a teacher at the old Traralgon South Primary School in the 1930's planted native trees in the grounds and they were all growing beautifully and included Manna gum (E. viminalis), Mahogany gum (E. botryoides), Narrow-leaved Peppermint (E. radiata) several wattles (A. cootamundra) Black, (A. mearnsii) Wirilda (A. retinodes) an Albizzia in bud, and a mature weeping tree, looked like a Eucalyptus, had a distinct scent of peppermint but the fruits were not those of a Eucalypt. It was keyed out to be the West Australia Peppermint tree (Agonis flexuosa). We saw where the schoolrooms had previously stood and were amazed that seeds from the planted trees in the grounds had evidently been blown under the rooms and now, since the school has been moved were growing nicely and were about 6 feet high and a mixture of Manna, But-But, Mahogany Gums, Acacia floribunda, Acacia cyanophylla and a small Callistemon. These trees were of great interest but it was a real joy to see a forest of Manna Gums (E. viminalis), all about 15 feet high growing where the school residence had been. These trees covered the whole area and for them to be there at all and to be so tall is little short of a miracle as it is not two years since the house was moved. It is thought that the seeds must have been on the ground when the house was built in the early 1920's, lain dormant for all those years and began growing immediately after the first rain, after the removal of the house. It was truly a lovely sight and the highlight of the day. It was most interesting to note that there are no new seedlings coming up in the actual grounds, only where buildings had once stood. Mr. Young was also responsible for having the old Traralgon South reserve reserved.

A short walk took us to the new State Electricity Commission

Contd.

THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT...

contd.

settling ponds and landscaped area. However it was interesting to see that the naturally growing trees outside the fence were doing very much better than the planted ones. The birds had been quick to take advantage of this ideal spot for we saw little Blue Wrens, Red-browed Finches and Honeyeaters. While in and around the water were Cormorants, Swans, Brown Ducks, 2 Mountain Duck, a White-faced Heron, Straw-necked and White Ibis. A rather large nest, possibly an Ibis's was sighted in a pine tree. We walked past where the Presbyterian/Methodist church had stood only a fortnight ago and saw the trees planted honouring the 1st World War soldiers. It will be interesting to see if any seedlings come up where that old church has stood for so many years.

We then drove to McCormack's Reserve to see if Pterostylis fischii was flourishing after being transferred from Clark's Road. Though this reserve is only a few miles from the old Traralgon South reserve it doesn't have anywhere near the variety of plants and is not nearly as interesting. However we were very fortunate to obtain a much bigger area than we had. We looked for the two plots of P. fischii and while one lot is growing nicely the other had evidently been eaten by rabbits or something. It is hoped that they will recover and flower next year. The bike riders, whose reserve is adjacent to ours, are riding through our area and causing erosion, breaking down saplings etc. We are in contact with the Traralgon Council re this matter.

The new Callignee Road which is a main road made through a pine plantation, the top soil was replaced on the banks of the roadside and the seeds in this top soil have grown so that now there is quite a variety of plants of the area growing, no doubt more will grow as time goes on. Our Club has for years been asking that a policy of replacing the top soil should be adopted so it was very pleasing to see it being followed through with such good results. There were several different acacias though mainly Sunshine, Spike and Sweet Wattle, Dillwynia (egg and bacon), Showy Bossiaea (B. cinerea), Silver Banksia (B. marginata), though small were in flower, the Bearded Heath (Leucopogon ericoides) and others not yet in bud, but this area will be a picture in the spring.

The excursion was planned to show the changing environment of part of the Latrobe Valley and all day we had been seeing the land being used for different purposes to that of a few years ago. Farming properties are now Loy Yang Projects, dams or pine forests. Schools and churches relocated, pines removed to make way for a road, a reserve given in lieu of another taken over. It is very pleasing to know that our Club, by presenting factual well presented submissions to the Land Conservation Council and other Government bodies is involved in any decisions being made on the natural environment.

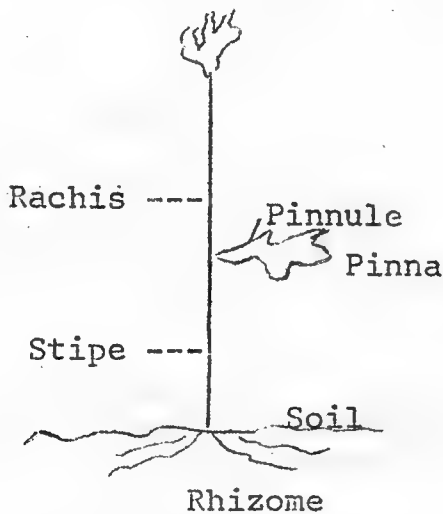
Our thank go to Mr and Mrs Thompson and Mr Wall for their planning and leadership of a most interesting day.

Iris Peterson.

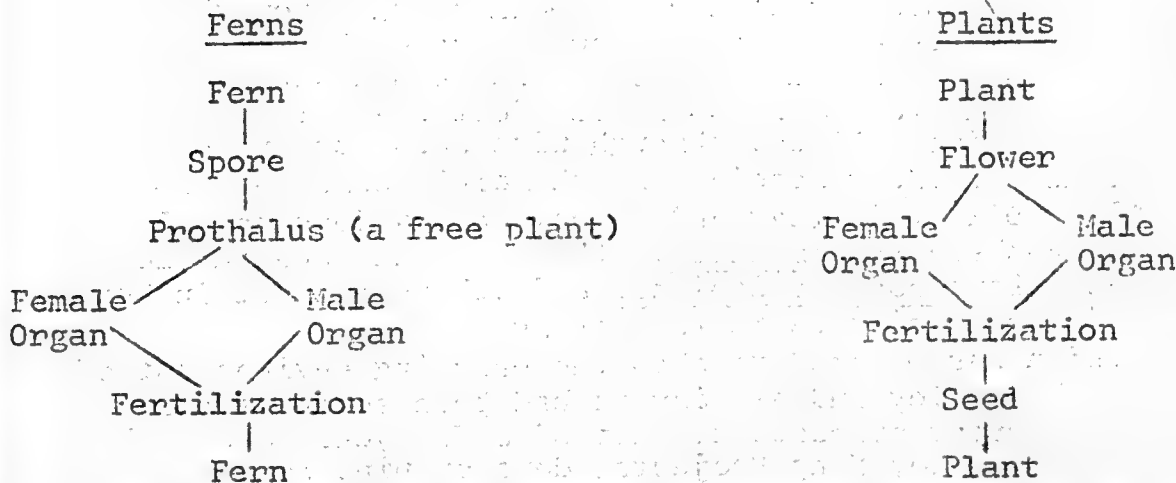
FERNS, MOSSES, and LIVERWORTS.

The many members attending our July meeting were presented with a wealth of beauty and knowledge as Mr Ollie Thompson showed slides and Mrs Bon Thompson described to us a great variety of our Victorian ferns.

Apparently in the 1940's botanists attempted to classify ferns according to overseas methods, and the continual changing of nomenclature was very frustrating. Mrs. Thompson used the following diagrams to illustrate the difference between plants and ferns.



Fronds can be; Entire.
Pinnate (once divided)
Bi-pinnate (twice-divided).



It really "boils down" to a different dormant period before new life begins.

The Prothalus is a one-cell thick organism from which, after fertilization, a new fern arises. The Prothalus provides nourishment and, once its function is completed, shrivels up and dies.

Being one-cell thick it can take on the colour of it's surroundings.

Contd.

FERNS, MOSESSES, and LIVERWORTS*contd...*

Spores are formed in a Sporangium or spore sac. These dry and contract permitting the dissemination of spores. To identify ferns one needs to study the arrangement of sori on the back of the frond often the pinna or perhaps the pinnule (lobe of pinna).

Mr. Thompson showed slides taken from his microscope. Mrs. Thompson pointed out the sori on the Rough Tree-fern --- small dots up the centre of the pinnule whereas on the King Fern they practically cover most of the under surface.

The following are some details of slides shown;

- DOWNY GROUND FERN: has hairs on the back of rachis.
SHIELD FERN: the covering of sporangia is attached at the centre like a shield.
MOTHER SHIELD FERN: grows baby ferns on it's frond which with growth weighs down the frond so that it can take root.
SPLEEN WORTS: The Greeks used one of these as a medication for splenic ailments. In Australia spleenworts grow from the high country to the coast, and from the sub-temperate zone to the sub-antarctic.
COMMON SPLEENWORT: better known overseas than here, is found on Mt. Howitt. The sori are fixed on the vein of the pinna.
NECKLACE FERN: the immature sori are covered and "in short lines" but once they burst the pattern is lost.
AUSTRAL LADY FERN: is similar to the spleenworts differing often by having two sori on one vein.
BLANKET FERN: is also closely related to spleenworts. They do not have sporangia covers. Grow in the Grampians.
BRITTLE BLADDER FERN: grown from Greenland to the Indian Ocean. Rare in Australia but found on Mt. Howitt. Has little bladders (pointed at one end) to cover the sori.
MAIDENHAIR FERN: has sori just at the indentation of the lobes of the pinnae.
WATER FERNS: have upright fertile fronds to carry the sori. The sporangia each contain about thirty fertile spores.
RAY WATER FERN: Fronds splay out from the base of the fern.
GRISTLE FERN: has a fertile frond similar to the barren frond. Sori are massed on each side of pinna's midrib.
BRAKE LIKE FERNS: have long continuous bands of sori.
SICKLE FERN: shaped like a sickle. (pinnae)
NETTED BRAKE FERN: the veins are arranged in a netted pattern.

to be contd.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 25th AUGUST 1982.Publications received:

Victorian Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist, Northern Territory Naturalist, North Eastern Naturalist, C.C.V., S.G.A.P., and Bird Observer.

Zoo Trip:

Apologies are extended to members for any inconvenience caused by the cancellation of Zoo Trip.

Finance:

Bank Balance \$620.38.

Supper Roster:

September Mrs. Inez Branston Mrs. Cogan.

Next Meeting:

The next committee meeting will be held on the 22nd September 1982 at the home of Mrs. Iris Peterson, 14, Barry Street, Horwell.

Programme Meeting:

This meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs. O. Thompson Traralgon South.

Change of Venue:

Campout for January 1983 will be to Baw Baw Plateau, not Tamboritha as programmed. More details later.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB:</u> | <u>HON SECRETARY:</u> | <u>MEETINGS:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.H.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, MORWELL 5840 'phone 542129 | 7.30p. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.H.C</u> | Mr MacLean P.O. Box 302 <u>SALE</u> 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.H.C.</u> | Mr Z. Veigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.H.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. <u>WARRAGUL</u> . |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.H.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00 pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall. <u>BAIRNSDALE</u> . |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 109
NEWBOROUGH 3828

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FAMILY \$8.00

SINGLE MEMBERS \$ 7.00

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

Hon Editor. Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Rd.
Newborough 3828.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING:

Friday October 15th
Slides of Cairns area

EXCURSION:

Sunday October 24th
Contact Ass. Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:

SPEAKER:

Friday October 22nd
Dr Carrol (President C.C.V.)
"Dieback on farms"

EXCURSION:

Saturday October 23rd. to Mullundung
area.

MEETING PLACE:

Gormandale at 10.00 am

FUN WITH FUNGI.

Talk by Mrs Lyndon 27/8/82.

To quote Mrs Lyndon, "One needs a lifetime to become an expert in even one small area of the study of fungi." Never the less, in spite of starting with only the Willis Handbook, a couple of small english publications and no microscope, she has developed a very detailed knowledge of the subject through sheer dedication. Mrs Lyndon also involved her late husband as photographer, and used him as a sort of guinea pig for testing the palability of specimens, much to his amusement,

palatability

Much was learned by exchanging specimens through the mail with specialists in Melbourne. Collections were made, years ago, for the C.S.I.R.O. which resulted in a fungus species being named after Mrs Lyndon, and another after a keen collector at Tarra Valley, Mrs Healy. The generic names of certain fungi are somewhat confusing, varying between authors and handbooks.

Some people are inclined to be superstitious and are afraid of even handling certain fungi for fear of poisoning, but few are actually deadly. Some may have an unpleasant taste or be otherwise unpalatable, while others, even brightly coloured or weird shaped types, may be considered delicacies. Mrs Lyndon has seen Dr Willis chew a piece from an unknown toadstool to determine the flavour, and then spit it out, of course. The fact that a fungus is called a mushroom or a toadstool is no indication of its edibility or otherwise. There are edible and poisonous kinds in both groups. the word mushroom could be used to describe any of the larger fungi with typical cap and stem.

By treating the audience to a colorful and intriguing set of slides from her own and Ollie Thompson's collection, Mrs Lyndon was able to show some of the infinite variety of shapes, colors and sizes to be found in Gippsland fungi. One of the earlier slides showed what was thought to be a slime mould. a Mycetozoa or "fungus animal", because it possesses the power of movement, albeit too slow for the naked eye to detect. Other slides showed brilliant colors of Amanitas and Cortinarias, and the intriguing shapes of the lattice, cup, birdsnest and stinkhorn fungi. Judging by the slimy appearance of the latter, we could imagine how they would attract the flies that spread the spores. About 60 slides were kindly projected by Mr Lubcke.

At the conclusion of her talk Mrs Lyndon showed us a large white punk fungus from a gum tree, explaining how it smouldered slowly when lit, so that in this way the aboriginals were able to transport fire from camp to camp.

We thank Mrs Lyndon for a very pleasant evening.

Philip J. Smethurst.

FERNS, MOSSES, and LIVERWORTS.*contd.*

BAT'S WING FERN: is not a true brake. The sori grow around the margin of the pinnae.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson showed slides of a number of especially interesting ferns such as;

CLOAK FERNS: very hairy underneath.

FINGER FERN: with undivided fronds.

KANGAROO FERN: frequently found climbing on trees ferns and has most variable foliage. Hence it's name "diversifolium"

FRAGRANT FERN: needs to be wet before fragrance is apparent.

HARE'S FOOT FERN: the sori are contained in small cups.

SCREW FERN: grows widely throughout the state especially in drier situations.

LACEY WEDGE FERN: very rare.

COMB FERN: unusual shape to fertile fronds.

FAN AND CORAL FERNS: used to be classified together until they were found to have different numbers of chromosomes. The sori are in three or four blobs along the pinnae.

SCRAMBLING FERN: a species of coral fern.

OVAL FORK FERN: one of the world's oldest living "plants" and found at Morwell National Park.

SKELETON FORK FERN: found in the Grampians. In the tropics grows on palms but in Victoria selects hot rocks.

FILMY FERNS: are only one cell thick. There are only three in Bulga Park, and we were asked to look for them next day.

AUSTRAL FILMY FERN: has a wing along the total stalk and spores in little cups.

SHINY FILMY FERN: only the small stems are winged, i.e. has no wings down the stipe.

BRISTLE FERN: sori are in little cups, and along the bristle.

MOSSES: have spores in little capsules, frequently on stalks. The point comes off exposing teeth and spores. Another type of moss hides it's capsules on the under side of the leaf.

LIVERWORTS: have no veins and are thinner than mosses.

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Thompson for a most interesting talk illustrated by truly wonderful slides which inspired us to be sure not to miss the visit to Bulga Park next day and to see for ourselves the marvels of the fern world.

Mary Austin.

A NEW WILDFLOWER PLACE.

We found a new wildflower place near the old Everton railway line. We drove along between high rocky cuttings, lichen covered and draped with Hardenbergia, and Grevillea, everlastings and wattles and even small Black boys!.

Lots more flowers not out yet, all the Egg and Bacons, Pimelea and Guinea flowers, orchids and fingerflowers. Two sorts of Guinea flower were just starting, H.linearis and H.stricta. It was so beautiful, dozenz and dozenz of Purple Coral-pea, some on saplings and some heaped on the ground. One place I counted 14 clumps all in sight at once.

We also listed 36 birds including a Jacky Winter on her tiny nest and a White-winged Chough's nest like a mud pudding basin.

M. Galbraith.

from a letter to Miss J. Galbraith.

A SAD HAPPENING IN BULGA PARK.

We were on track duties when we heard Ravens making a fuss in trees above us. As we approached we also heard a Lyrebird making noises. On investigating we found fine feathers (the soft downy ones) on the ground. Looking further we saw a Lyrebirds nest pulled apart, the egg inside holed and empty. As we moved closer the Ravens rose up and away, leaving the Lyrebird making sounds of (Brr-Oak Brr-Oak) The alarm call (Whisk) and a call like a Curlew or Magpie.

The nest was in a Treefern and it was well camouflaged, for it was hard for us to see even when it was torn apart.

About a good half hours time we heard the female Lyrebird calling out again her loss to the forest, in the same distress song as before.

Eva Doyle.

THE PAINTED QUAIL.

We had visitors for easter. We noticed the bird in the shadows under the bushes and shrubs. Because of its actions we knew it was one not seen in our garden before; it ran along instead of hopping and scratched in a circular motion. It left a cleared patch 25 cm. in diameter. We considered a Quail Thrush but its tail was too short. Because it did not leave the shadows we could not see its colour or markings.

After lunch someone looked out the window and there was our visitor in full view on the lawn. The general movement towards the window disturbed the bird before we could have a good look at it. Out came the bird books and after some discussion a tentative identification was decided on.

We went into the garden and the bird ran under the Rhubarb. Someone tried to flush it out and was about 45 cm away when he saw the bird. It was sitting on the ground in full sunlight with its eyes closed. Its camouflage was complete. It did not move and we were able to make a positive identification before it stood up and walked back to the Rhubarb.

Our visitor was definately the Painted Quail. What a lovely Easter surprise to share with our visitors.

Bon Thompson.

EXCURSION TO BULGA PARK.

On July 24th about 30 field naturalists gathered at the Traralgon High School despite the cold wind and occasional light shower. Our leaders Bon and Ollie Thompson were first on the scene ready to greet all comers.

Just after 10. am we set off for Bulga Park and as we travelled through pine forest, farmland and parklands, observant members noted Emu, Black Duck, Plover, Crows, Blackbirds, Magpies, Grey thrush, Crimson Rosella, White-faced Heron, White Ibis and Straw-necked Ibis. Also noted were Banksia serrata and B. marginata, Sunshine, Sweet, Silver, Varnish wattles and Blackwood and Prickly Moses. We also saw Epacris impressa both white and pink, Cherry Ballart, Cassinia longifolia, Clematis Olearia, Leptospermum, Pittosporum and several eucalypts.

At our first stop on the Carrajung south Road we were shown some massive tree butts with the holes still in them where springboards had been inserted for the men to stand on while they used hand saws to bring down the huge trees. The original trees had been burnt, probably during the 1939 fires, which killed them and some time before the trees were cut down probably for pulp wood.

There was also one very large tree trunk still lying on the ground which had hollowed out over the years and had fungi growing along the outside. At this stop we also found Soft Treeferns with their sori on the outer edges of the pinnae. Rough Treeferns with the sori on the centre of the pinnae, Downy Ground-fern, Hard Water-fern, Bat's-wing Fern, Kangaroo Fern and mosses with their tiny fruiting capsules.

From here we proceeded to a lookout point which gave us a view of quite a bit of the coastline although the atmosphere was rather hazy. However with the aid of binoculars we were able to locate the Omega Station Tower and several small towns. From this point we could also see the area covered by the Macks Creek headwaters. It was no problem to get every one back into the cars as the wind was particularly penetrating. Our next stop was at Bulga Park where the Ranger, Mark Doyle had a fire going for us in the lunch hut where we could all get warm if needed. A few diversions were created during our lunch while some members fed the Yellow Robins and the Lyre Bird which came very close to the hut and showing no particular fear of the people around.

After lunch to the call "rally rally" we all rallied at the starting point where all were met by Mark and his wife Eva, and from there we began our walk through the park. With Mark leading with the microphone, Bon, Ollie and Mrs Lyndon at various stages and Eva bringing up the rear of the group with a loud speaker we were kept well informed all the way.

One of the first spots was the Birdo's corner where people can sit quietly and watch and or feed the birds. We noticed Scrub Wrens and the White-throated Tree-creeper as we passed. We saw Mother Shield-fern, Hard Water-fern and of course lots of Treeferns and also some small fungi growing on the fence rails. Just before the Swing Bridge built in 1938 and expected to last 30 years, now has a limit of 10 persons and is expected to be renewed in the near future. However it is remarkably well preserved considering it has lasted $1\frac{1}{2}$ times its life expectancy.

EXCURSION TO BULGA PARK

contd...

As we crossed the swing bridge we viewed impressive treeferns from above and as we approached the other side we noted an excellent specimen of the Ray Fern with fertile sori. Here we also saw the Sassafras and Banyalla trees. At various places along the walk we saw the lovely little white tubular flower of the *Fieldia australis* entwined around tree trunks. Further along we saw the Bristle Fern, the common Finger Fern, Filmy Fern with its dainty fancy edges. There were also Winged Filmy-fern, Shiny Filmy-fern, Hare's-foot Shield-fern, Leathery Shield-fern, Long Fork-fern, Lance Water-fern, Austral Ground-fern, Strap Water-fern, Spleenwort and Weeping spleenwort.

Interspersed along the way we saw Coral Fungi, both pink and white little ball shaped fungi, the dried remains of the horeshair fungi, a wood destroying fungi which eats out the centre of the trees growing in layers and sometimes known as the artists fungi and an unusual white fungi which none of those present could identify.

The Tree Lomatia and Mountain Pepper were identified as we proceeded and the huge mountain ash (*Euc. regnans*) were awe inspiring with their size compared to some of the fine and delicate little ferns we had been observing.

About halfway along the track our attention was drawn to a dancing mound of the lyrebirds. It just looked like a mound of freshly scratched soil and was fairly close to the well used walking track. Then as we were nearing the end of the walk we were lucky enough to get another glimpse of the female lyrebird scratching around under the trees nearby.

We arrived back at the cars just over 2 hours from starting the 25 minute walk and although the atmosphere was quite cold the rain we feared (but also needed) did not eventuate. A short discussion was then held on the futures of the Bulga Park and Tarra Valley Park and the hopes that are held for the two to be joined up and extended to protect them. Members were asked to write and express their thoughts on these matters. A vote of thanks was given to our leaders for the day, for all their help in trying to teach some of we amateurs a bit more about identifying ferns.

Jean Merson.

BEAUTY UNSURPASSED.

Looking out from my lounge room window at the Oak Tree one morning. I saw one solitary dew drop on the tip of a branch in the sunlight. It shone with more brilliance than a diamond, against the dull brown of the branches. In the soft breeze a myriad of colour emanated from it scintillating as the branches moved.

P. Wall.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 22nd 1982

1983 campout Bunnerong Lodge has been booked for the weekend.
the lodge holds 36 people. Give names if interested to secretary.

Details of lodge facilities will be published when they are known.

Programme 1983. The meeting held on September 14th to select a programme
for the year was by all accounts very successful.

Finance The Treasurer reported a balance of \$604.38.

Cost of Naturalist. There was much discussion re this matter. Eventually
it was decided to keep costs the same for 1983. The situation to be re-
viewed in 6 months time when printing for next year will be considered.

We have purchased some paper at a reasonable price which helps .
Another suggestion was that we only publish 6 magazines in a year.

Correspondence. Coach Camping Safari tours 1983 brochure.

Book List from Australian Government Publishing Service.
Dept of Home Affairs Newsletters.

R.A.O.U. Information re courses

Victorian Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist, ECOS.

SGAP. Maroondah Group Newsletter.

R.A.O.U. Congress will be held at Armidale N.S.W. from 26th November
to 4th December 1982. Registration forms available now. Cost \$ 85.00

KINGSTON'S TOURS for Naturalists 23 days Atherton Cairns North queensla
and departs 4th june 1983.

15 day Wilpena, Birdsville, Mootwingee
safari departs 10th September 1983.

SUPPER ROSTER OCTOBER 22nd. Mrs Piant Mrs Reeves ?

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday October 20th at the
home of Mr and Mrs Stewart, 40 Fairway Drive Yallourn Heights.

Your editor is back from holidays and will be pleased to receive any
articles with a natural history theme for inclusion in the Naturalist.
I would like to thank all the people who assisted in producing the
magazine in my absence, we need the magazine to be sent out regularly.

The Club sends greetings to Mr McElroy who is at present in
hospital in Melbourne. We hope you are soon feeling brighter.
Best Wishes from all L.V.F.N.C. members.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.:

Meeting:

Friday November 19th

Jack and Nancy Brooks

Illustrated talk on "South of Perth"

Excursion:

Sunday November 20th

Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.:

Meeting:

Friday November 26th

Films of Marine Life etc...

Excursion:

Leongatha, Inverloch Geology, Marine
Life

Meeting Place:

Lyndon Park Leongatha at 10.00 am

JANUARY CAMPOUT AT DAW BAW Jan 29, 30, 31 Bunnerong Lodge.

NEAT TRICKS OF NATIVE PLANTS.

Address by Mrs Jane Calder 24/9/82.

Mrs Calder discussed situations plants have to cope with in the natural environment, especially looking at the extreme conditions.

Putting the Australian flora into a world perspective - 200 million years before present, all the major land masses of the world were united into a single super-continent Pangea. About 180 million years before present Pangea broke into northern Laurasia and southern Gondwanaland, with the latter continuing to break up and the pieces to drift, right up to the present day. Flowering plants appeared about 120 million years before present and as Australia, South America, Antarctica and New Zealand did not separate significantly until about 65 million years before present there are many families in common between these areas. Species however are generally distinct in each area reflecting the subsequent long separation. The original Gondwanaland climate was tropical but became considerably modified in each area as the land masses separated. All green plants must have light. Moss in the rain forest gets very little light and too much would kill it because it has become adapted to this condition; while other plants scramble, twist and twine upwards to get to the light.

Water is another necessity and with water comes nutrients that are taken up in the water. Ringbarking causes trees to die of starvation as it cuts off the food supply to the roots. The food supply is conducted down the tree just below the bark while the water goes up deeper inside the trunks. Most Australian soils are nutrient poor and therefore leached. There are various ways plants cope with this. Sundews which often live in boggy conditions deficient in nitrates, catch and trap insects and digest the body to provide an immediate supply of nitrates. Fairy's Aprons or Bladderworts have bladders on the roots to catch mites in the water. Leguminous plants have root nodules to enable the host plant to obtain extra nitrogen from the environment. Blue-green algae have a similar action. Cycads with special bumpy roots full of blue-green algae obtain nitrogen from the action of such algae while the algae get protection, moisture, etc. from the Cycads.

Fungal hyphae also help plants. Some plants have a special association with these fungal hyphae to enable the plant to use the phosphates from the soil.

Much of Australia's environment is arid and salty and so many plants have a water problem. To overcome these problems some plants develop succulent leaves to store water; while others take in salty water and use energy to pump the salt into little bladders on the leaves.

These bladders fall off or are blown away. Mangroves pump salt into the older leaves which then drop off. Often saltiness is a protection against predators; in California most predators avoid salty plants except for a species of rat that shaves the salt off the leaves and then eats them.

NEAT TRICKS OF NATIVE PLANTS.

contd...

Plant breeders are looking at our salt tolerant plants with the hope of introducing this salt tolerance to crops. For example in the Galapagos Islands a tomato plant with very small fruit grows in salt water and it is being crossed with the normal tomato to try to provide salt tolerance.

Most plant processes require water, e.g. in photosynthesis water is essential. Water also gives plants a degree of rigidity or firmness. Mistletoe is semi-parasitic; it manufactures its own sugars and food but is entirely dependent on the host plant for water, as are Dodderlaurels and the Alpine Eyebright.

In the rain forest there is no water problem. If the underside of a leaf from that area is examined under a microscope it is seen to have little holes - stomata- all over. The stomata are where the gasses are taken in and released by the leaf. Water, as a gas, is transpired from a plant through the stomata. Many wattles have flat leaf-like structures- phyllodes - these are not leaves but stemlike in structure.

Water loss is much less from these "leaves" as they have many less stomata. Some other plants have rolled up leaves thus protecting the stomata and reducing evaporation. Other means plants have of conserving water are to have very small leaves that are often harsh and prickly, also deterring predators; A hairy leaf cuts down air flow over the leaf surface and builds up a layer of humid air to reduce evaporation, while waxy surfaces on leaves also help in arid conditions. Norfolk Pines have such a wax layer and when the Norfolk Pines at Manly started to die, it was discovered they no longer had a wax layer. Near Manly is a sewer outfall containing detergent and the spray from the sewer had dissolved the wax.

The Baobab tree just loses its leaves until conditions are suitable for regrowth. Resurrection plants literally become totally dry so that if crushed they will just crumble into dust and yet within 24 hours of wetting they will start photosynthesis. They must be dried out slowly to total dehydration. Some mosses are included in this group. There are 80 species of resurrection plants worldwide of which 10 species are known to grow in Australia.

Young seedlings are very delicate and easily dried up, so in some plants of arid areas there are inhibitors so that the seeds do not germinate until there is sufficient water for the plant to grow to maturity and not just to the seedling stage. So seeds of some arid-land plants require adequate rain to wash out these inhibitors before germination takes place. Fluffy woolly heads that prevent rapid penetration of rain also inhibit germination. In some desert plants the flowers grow low down on the plants so that seeds drop at the foot of the parent plant into a favourable environment. In many cases not all seeds germinate at first leaving some seeds if disaster affects the first seedlings. In some plants the seeds actually germinate on the parent plant; for example the Mangrove which grows a rigid root before the seed is released.

Fire is another hazard in the lives of our native plants. There has been much change in thinking about fire in the environment. Coolfires are carried out to prevent wild fires.

contd...pp.3

HEAT TRICKS OF NATIVE PLANTS

contd....

Many of our plants are fire tolerant and have evolved with fire and need it to create conditions suitable for plant regeneration. There are two techniques of adaptability:- as with Mountain Ash the parent dies and the seeds are shed onto a perfect seedbed. the problem with this method is that another fire within 20 years will mean the loss of all seeds as trees will not have formed seed. However if there is no fire for 400 years the same result will occur as the mature trees will die and there will be no suitable seedbed for the seeds. The other technique is dormant shoots that sprout after fire. Some eucalypts are a good example where regeneration takes place along stems. Other eucalypts and banksias show regeneration from ground level shoots. Other plants have fire resistant bark. Many plants require fire to flower; for example the Grass-trees and in many orchids. Natural fire under normal conditions is a hot one in autumn, when many plants are dormant, but spring burning will kill orchids if done several years running.

Study of reproduction reveals further "tricks". Some plants do not need sexual reproduction, eg. the introduced Dandelion has special flowers and bracken multiplies by means of its rhizomes. Most plants go to a lot of trouble for reproduction; separate plants for the sexes or where both male and female flowers are on the same plant than the male or the female flowers open first. Many orchids are highly evolved for insect pollination e.g. Tongue orchids imitate insects. Trigger plants have another unusual reproductive system. Banksias with straight styles, little or no scent and flowers high on the tree are thought to be bird pollinated; while those with hooked styles, musty smell and flowers low on the bush are animal pollinated. Bird pollinated flowers are usually bright coloured as birds see the bright colours, while insects are attracted by the ultraviolet end of the colour spectrum amongst the blue, white and yellow range.

Shedding the seeds is helped by a large number of seeds; orchids have a host of tiny seeds that carry no food store and need fungal threads to pick up nutrients from the soil. Cycad seeds are large, weighing about one ounce and so have large stores of food and can grow slowly. Many plants expend considerable energy to produce seeds with suitable dispersal mechanisms. Bidgee Widgee Burr seeds carry hooks, Acacias rely on dry atmosphere to pop the pods and spread seeds, many plants have succulent fleshy fruits which advertise by bright colours, e.g. tomatoes, blackberries, wild cherries, etc. With mistletoe the stickiness of the seed stimulates the Mistletoe Bird's anatomy so that the seed goes down a bypass tube and is not crushed in the gizzard but remains sticky.

There is also considerable ant dispersal of seeds in the Australian environment. Some legume seeds have a fatty waxy end, the aril- which excites the ants and they carry the seed away to their nest. They take the aril off and dump the seed in the nest where it gains protection until it is ready to germinate.

contd...pp. 5

AUGUST EXCURSION TO DARLIMURLA.

The planned fungi excursion had been altered to a general one because of the exceptionally dry season.

We met at the pump house in perfect weather and the Silver Wattle Acacia dealbata was at its best, I doubt if the trees could have held another flower. We decided to walk along the water catchment track, this proved to be a very pretty area, trees being mostly Messmate Euc. obliqua and Narrow-leaf Peppermint Euc. radiata and tall Mountain Grey Gums Euc. cypellocarpa. Inbetween were wattles flowering, Sallow Wattle A. longifolia, Narrow-leaf Wattle A. mucronata. The Prickly Moses was almost in bloom, Banksia spinulosa was perfect, We noticed several clumps of Dianella growing in tree stumps about two metres from the ground. Several mosses and lichens were studied and a patch of Club Moss was admired, this moss is not common so we were pleased to see it growing so well.

The Hakeas were also in flower especially H. sericea and H. ulcina. Meanwhile the birdos had sighted several birds, Fantails, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Yellow robins, Eastern Spinebill, Golden whistler and heard many more. We did see several small gilled fungi which were identified as "little brown jobs"!!

We then crossed the road to the Lyrebird Walk picnic area, which is a great credit to the Forest Commission. After lunch we followed the track for a short distance and saw Rough Treefern, Hard Water-fern, Maiden Hair, Rainbow and Kingferns and a perfect specimen of Fishbone Water-fern with both fertile and infertile fronds on the one plant. We turned back after seeing lovely groups of Maroon-hood Orchid, Pterostylis pedunculata.

We then met Mary and her father who were waiting at where the old Darlimurla Railway Station once stood to show us the "Big Tree". This giant Mountain Grey Gum stands well above the other tall trees in the area. The tree was recently measured and has a girth of 34 ft (10m) and stands 200 ft (70 m). this tree is a fine example of the trees that once grew in the area before settlement, but last year some vandals had carved their names and date in big letters at eye level on that beautiful trunk. We were sad to see such vandalism.

We were then joined by Mary's uncle who led us along Sergeant's Rd. (named after a well known sawmiller of the early days) and along other tracks we had never heard of. These tracks caused some excitement and drivers were quite proud of their efforts when we stopped !! We walked up a hill and into a gully where we saw another magnificent Mountain Grey Gum, taller than the "Big Tree" and at the top was a large nest with two baby Wedge-tailed Eagles and circling overhead were the parent birds, no doubt wondering what was going on. We walked back to the cars through a forest of Prickly Stringybark or Yertchuk Euc. consideniana and Narrow-leaf Peppermint and hybrids of both. This has come about because both these species flower at the same time.

AUGUST EXCURSION TO DARLINURLA. contd...

Back in the cars and we travelled through a forest which had not been burned for 20-30 years. The area was dominated by Eakea sericea and the unusual shapes of the trees was fascinating.

Over a cup of tea the two gentleman (both over 90) told of the early days in the area. Deep gullies and sharp ridges covered with tall trees and Treeferns and thick scrub. Some of the tallest trees in Australia were then growing in the area. The area had few roads and those that were made were "Corduroy" a continuous timber track. The area didn't go ahead until numerous deputations and then a stop-start construction of the railway. This was due to the extremely difficult terrain, land slides due to wet weather etc.. However the opening of the Mirboo-Norwell Railway was celebrated in 1886 and then large quantities of sawn timber, palings etc from the many saw mills that dotted the area was railed out. Mary's uncle is still cutting timber, mainly Yertchuk as it is very hard on a par with red gum. We saw some of these straight grained posts stacked ready to be trucked out.

Our thanks to Ellen Lyndon, Mary, her father and uncle for a most interesting day. It was lovely to listen to two such interesting gentleman who grew up in the history of the area and love every tree, plant and animal on the property.

Iris Peterson.

NEAT TRICKS OF NATIVE PLANTS. contd...

In Australia in heathy woodland 30 % of leguminous shrubs are adapted in this way, over all Australia 7.5 % of species are adapted, while world wide only .01% is adapted. No explanation has yet been provided for why Australia has such a high percentage of plants with this adaptation while other countries with similar climate have so few.

Mrs Calder then showed slides to illustrate many of the above features. During question time the Leopard Tree of Central Australia was discussed. This tree develops first as a prickly shrub and when the shrub provides enough protection the main shoot appears that develops into the trunk of the tall tree.

I am sure everyone enjoyed this interesting and instructive address.

Bon Thompson.

BIRD NOTE.

King Parrots which do not always stay with us through the spring must have nested here this year as they have not left us and there are plenty of hollows about for nesting. It is now almost the end of October and they come every day for the crushed acorns I throw out for them. The males with their scarlet and green are the most splendid of the 4 species of parrots that come here.

J. Galbraith.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 20th 1982.

¹⁹¹Decided that we would meet in Leongatha for the excursion to Inverloch Lyndon Park seemed a good meeting place. The park is opposite Mrs Lyndon's home Steel Street Leongatha.

Decided that we continue with monthly Naturalist. It was felt that if the Naturalist was published less often the link with the Club for meetings and excursions would suffer and attendances at meetings would not be so good when the Naturalist did not appear.

A saving in cost could be effected by folding the Naturalist in three to make it a smaller article.

Publications received

N.T. Naturalist

S.G.A.P. Newsletter

N.E. Naturalist (Tasmania)

Environment Victoria (C.C.V.)

Decided that we should subscribe to ECOS magazine. We have been receiving free copies until now.

^{du}Submissions Mrs Thompson presented the submissions she is preparing on behalf of the club. L.C.C. Hillend Proposed Recommendations.

S.E.C. re Transmission Line Rosedale to Bairnsdale.

E.C.C. Hinterland Proposed Recommendations.

The Club owes our Conservation co-ordinator a great debt for the work in this area.

JANUARY CAMPOUT. 29, 30, 31 at Baw Baw.

We have booked Bunnerong Lodge, which is well equipped with stoves, fridge cooking utensils, crockery cutlery etc.

We need to take food and bedding towels, teatowels, sponges etc.

The cost has not been notified but would be between \$2.00 and \$5.00 per night. The Lodge committee has yet to meet and will notify Secretary about costs. The lodge will hold 36 people. Please let Secretary know if you are interested in this weekend.

We always have a most enjoyable time on these weekends.

Supper Roster November 26th. Mrs Hall Mary Austin

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday November 24th at the home of Mrs Huxley Harracan. We have been invited to come early so that we can see the garden before dark.

Mr McElroy who has been in hospital in Melbourne is now convalescing at home. We hope you are feeling much better.

Some of our members spent a pleasant week at Wilson's Promontory after Cup weekend. We look forward to hearing more about the times spent there.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows.

| <u>CLUB</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O.Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE.</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St. School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall BAIRNSDALE. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 169
NEWBOROUGH 3828.

NATURALIST \$6.00

FAMILY \$8.00

SINGLE MEMBERS \$7.00

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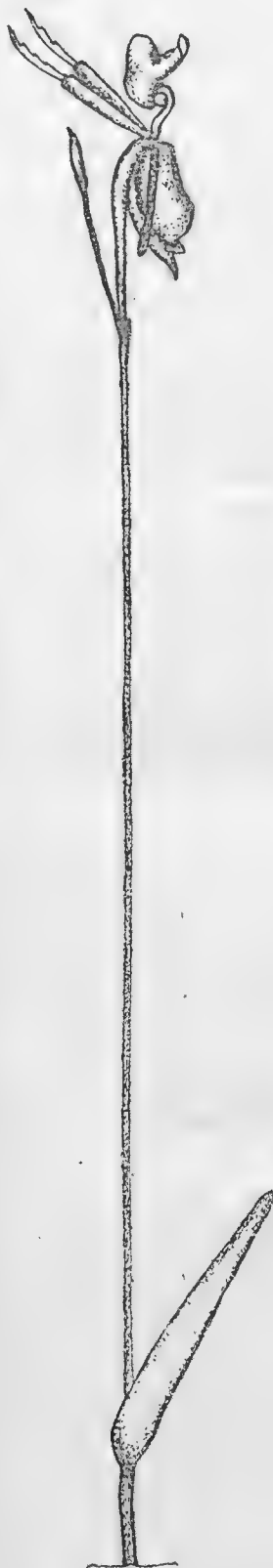
Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

Hon Editor.

Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Road.
NEWBOROUGH 3828.

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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

No Meeting in December

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday December 18th at
Woorabinda School Camp beside
Lake Harracan.

Please bring your tea and enjoy a pleasant afternoon with your
fellow Field Naturalists.

The President wishes all readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

BAW BAW CAMPOUT

Bunnerong Lodge January 29,30,31

Contact Secretary if you wish to
attend.

GEOLOGY AT WILSON'S PROMONTORY.

A ranger took us near the mouth of the Tidal River to examine the rocks. The granite at the Prom. is an extensive formation reaching from Darby river to half way down Tasmania. We were able to see both the vertical and the horizontal fault lines in the rocks where the granite has been exposed. Some sections of the granite contained crystals of felspar, quartz, and mica which were identified by the shape and colour of the crystals.

Intrusions of formaline, which is formed by boric acid gas and water, had been forced up through the molten rock before cooling is complete. In some areas there were patches of Formaline where "bubbles" had burst leaving areas of almost pure needle like crystals of Formaline.

Another intrusion was shattered crystals of the gemstone Garnet.

A most interesting area contained boulders of "foreign" rock. This "foreign" rock had been swirled from the edges of the area where the molten granite was forcing its way towards the surface of the earth and they became imbedded throughout the granite.

I wonder how many people have, like us, walked past this interesting area without the knowledge to understand it.

Bon Thompson.

MT. OBERON WALK.

After twelve stalwarts had climbed to the summit of Mt. Oberon, on a perfect day - and what a magnificent view to reward us for our efforts. We returned to the car park for a late and well earned lunch, eaten in a truly picnic atmosphere.

Seven of us obviously feeling refreshed and refuelled, decided to take the forest walk to the Saddle on the route to Sealers Cove.

We were repaid for our efforts and here is a list of plants seen, which had not been listed on the Oberon walk.

Spreading Fan-fern, Lance Water-fern, Tender Brake-fern, Chiloglottis cornuta Green Bird Orchid, Two species of sun Orchids, Caladenia reticulata Veined Spider Orchid. Gompholobium pauciflorum the lovely coloured Downy Wedge-pea was also seen.

Also seen and identified was one very lively though discreet Tiger Snake.

Seven rather weary walkers returned to camp feeling that their enthusiasm had not been at all misguided.

Norma Smith.

Another snake story comes from Mrs Huxley who said her son saw a rather long snake between 3 to 6 feet long. It was a copperhead but appeared to have two tails! On further investigation it was found that one snake was devouring another, so the snake really did have two tails!

MULLUNDUNG EXCURSION. 23/10/82

It was a cool morning when we met at Gormandale for the excursion to Mullundung Forest.

Mr and Mrs Lhompson were our leaders and they had prepared details of our day, with lists of the more prominent flowers to be seen at each stop.

We set off towards a pine plantation which was a short distance towards Traralgon where we saw a wonderful display of flowers.

This area was originally planted 25 years ago, then clearfelled and re-planted in June 1981.

A mass of creamy white proved to be the Slender Riceflower Pimelea lini-folia, Silky Tea-tree Leptospermum myrsinoides and Candles, Stackhousia monogyna. Nearer the ground were Running Postman Kennedya prostrata and Showy Bossiaea B.cinerea, Wild Violet Violacea hederacea, and Hardenber-gia plants with many seed pods.

There was also Correa reflexa but most bushes had no flowers, Pink Heath Epacris impressa and Common Flat-pea, Platylobium obtusangulum among the small pine trees.

Another small plant of interest was Poranthera microphylla, a low grow-ing plant with tiny greenish flowers.

Higher up the slope where the soil was different we found Golden Grevillea G.chrysophaea, Saw Banksia B.serrata, Spike Wattle Acacia oxycedris and Annual Fireweed Senecio glomeratus.

We returned to the cars where all had morning tea, and more time for exploring. Near the cars were masses of Hop Bitter-pea Daviesia lati-folia, and many other species which we had seen on our walk.

We travelled through pine forests to an area where Incense Bush Calomeria amaranthoides was growing. As its name implies this is a very aromatic plant and looked attractive growing on the hillside.

The convoy of 6 cars moved along various roads, passing large pat-ches of Bulbine Lily on the Willung road, to the Old rosedale road which was also a beautiful wildflower stop.

Each side of the road was lined with Wedding Bush Ricinocarpus pinifolius Silky Tea-tree Leptospermum myrsinoides, and Pink Beard-heath Leucopogon ericoides. there were patches of Wahlenbergia sp. and Waxlip Orchids. The most delightful of all was Correa reflexa (Gormandale form) with its large red bells. This is a specially nice form of Correa reflexa.

The Wedge-pea Gompholobium latifolia was a bright spot of yellow flowers. By now it had started to rain, but this did not deter the group. They put on waterproofs and kept on looking for more flowers.

Other species were, Showy Parrot-pea Dillwynia sericea, Banksia marginata Helichrysum obtusifolium (buds only because of no sunshine). The Hairy Pink Bells Tetralthea pilosa and two species of Hibbertia, Prickly Guinea flower H.asicularis and Erect Guinea flower H.stricta. Also two species of Platylobium. P.obtusangulum and P.formosum.

MULLUNDUNG EXCURSION.

contd...

A plant of special interest was Restio tetraphyllus with curly stems and Broom Spurge Amperea xiphoclada, almost leafless with tiny yellow and brown flowers.

The next stop was lunch at the area known as "The Black Swamp". Most people sat around and talked about their discoveries during lunch time. The dominant trees were Shining Peppermint Euc.nitida, some with masses of white balls of sweet blossom, and the Snow Daisy-bush Olearia lirata with white flowers.

Both Small Grasstree Xanthorrhoea minor and austral Grasstree X.australis were seen as we drove along these sandy roads. Of course there were many of the flowers we had seen earlier in the day as well to be seen.

We then travelled along Frouds road in Mullundung forest to an area of dieback. The trees affected were mostly Yellow Stringybark Eucalyptus muelleriana with dry limbs reaching skywards. It was a rather dismal scene. The bright spot was finding four different Sun Orchids. Thelymitra rubra, T.flexuosa, T.ixiodes and T.pauciflora.

The Leafless Globe-pea Sphaerolobium vimineum, and Creeping Bossiaea B.prostrata created interest as did the Dagger Hakea H.teretifolia, with its dagger pointed fruits.

Our next stop was at an experimental area in Mullundung forest. A section has been fenced and planted with eucalypts grown from seeds of resistant trees to the dieback disease. The trees are certainly bigger than at our previous visit, but we observed almost as much healthy regrowth outside the fenced area.

There were masses of flowers in this area. We were pleased to see the Sun Orchids T.ixiodes and T.rubra here. The Golden Grevillea G.chrysophaea and Myrtle Wattle Acacia myrtifolia were plentiful.

The group spent much time discussing a yellow Diuris beside a group of Wallflower Orchids, but it was soon discovered to be the same as Diuris longifolia with its brown spots.

Another plant of interest was Tufted Lobelia L.rhombifolia. Some plants we had not seen earlier were Small Riceflower Pimelea humilis, Curling Everlasting Helichrysum scorpioides, Apple Berry Billardiera scandens, and Brooklime Cratiola peruviana.

Time was passing quickly so we walked back to the cars and afternoon tea and discussion about the plants we had seen.

Mr Lubcke thanked our leaders Mr and Mrs Thompson on our behalf, and all echoed this with applause. Then it was homeward through Gormandale after a most enjoyable day.

My thanks to Robin Bliss for listing the plants for the excursion, without these lists I could not have written this article.

Lorna Padfield.

DIEBACK IN FARM TREES.

ON Friday October 22nd the LVFNC held its October meeting. Chaired by Mr Thompson, many people were welcomed.

When I was asked to do the "write up" of the meeting, I didn't know what was ahead of me. The speaker for the evening was Dr Carroll, president of the C.C.V. and the topic of the lecture was "Dieback in farm trees".

Dr Carroll was pleased that so many people attended this meeting, a true sign that we were interested in his subject. The many submissions received from our club by the L.C.C. etc were very important and of high standard. He advised us to send in as many submissions as possible. From these submissions a final report is made. This in turn has to advise the Government, in which direction we not only want, but also have, to go. The topic for 1982 is the year of the tree. Much attention is paid to tree planting, tree farming, landscaping and so on. Unfortunately there are some difficulties and one of them is the dieback in trees. What are the causes of this dieback? There are many. It can be the wrong practises from earlier times, the clearing of the land for agricultural purposes, the clearing of the timber in the higher parts of the country, with the result of an alteration in the soil chemistry. Drought can also have devastating effects. The Cinnamon fungus is one of the very bad things threatening the trees. This fungus affects the moisture in the root system and can affect whole areas. It is easily transported from one place to another by soil, attached to cars or farm or bush equipment like bulldozers or timber trucks. And it is very difficult to control. But it seems to "travel" also in another way, because it is found on the highest tops of the Grampians, where no cars can come. Another cause of dieback can be flying insects which could infect different types of trees. Dr Carroll told us, that at one stage he was given a weeks notice to chop down six pine trees on his property which he did. He didn't mention the name, but I expect, it was the Sirex Wasp, which destroyed them. In Europe, enormous pine plantations are also threatened. Only drastic chopping down and burning have reduced this pest. We don't hear much anymore about the Sirex Wasp, but Dr Carroll did his part in controlling this international pest.

Then there are the difficulties of controlled burning in forests. This gets sometimes out of hand. This year is very dangerous, the drought has made the bush tinder dry and not surprisingly the fire restrictions are coming nearly two months earlier than normal. On our last excursion to the Holey Plains the ranger told us, that the previous week the Forests Commission had burned there. It was not very good for the early orchids in the area. But when they do it later, the nests and young birds will suffer. It is very hard to make a standard rule. The so called controlled burning last year got out of hand in the Little Desert.

Many questions were asked about spraying, slashing and burning of roadsides. Also the blackberries are causing a lot of problems.

DIEBACK IN FARM TREES. contd...

A lively discussion started about Lake Coleman. We have just lately heard so much about it in the papers. The waste of the paper mill is treated but is still a danger. The poisonous waste material of eucalypts is more dangerous than the waste material of the pines, however we field naturalists like the eucalyptus forests better than the pines. The waste in Lake Coleman has destroyed fish, bird and plant life, and it seems to go further east in the gippsland Lakes. But we need paper, for our Naturalist, we like our daily paper and all the things made of paper.

Mr Thompson thanked Dr Carrol for his interesting talk. It keeps us thinking for a long time.

Bart Sterkenburg.

Personally I like to add an extra note.

In Europe in 1920-1930 a terrible disease started in Elm Trees. In England Holland, Belgium, France and West Germany the elm is the most important roadside tree and elms died by the millions. This onslaught is still going on. The illness in the trees, it was discovered, is caused by phycomycetes in the root system.

In Holland Prof. Dr J. Westerdijk and Dr Christiaan Buisman discovered in the "Phytopathologisch- Laboratorium " in Baarn (central holland) a new type of elm, completely immune from this terrible "elm disease". Trees however in that part of the world grow a lot slower than here and it will take many, many years before the sick trees are replaced by this new variety of elm.

Are new strains of immune trees the solution of the many problems of dieback in Australia ? Only science can tell us.

B. Sterkenburg.

FROM A LETTER.

Our friend and fellow member, Charles Lester now living at Rosebud writes of outings with members of the National Parks Association.

"We gather at the headquarters of the National Parks Service for the Coastal Park on 4th Fridays at 10.30 am.

The head ranger tells us where they would like help and we spend the day on the chosen work. The ranger brings tools in his utility. We bring our lunches and enjoy a picnic and helping. Lately we have been clearing what is to become a walking track from Boneo Road to Sea winds Park. About 20 to 30 turn up.

Children work with great enthusiasm following the grownups -and also help with such things as tree planting and pulling boneseed". Charles expects to be with us for the Baw Baw camp out at the end of January.

J. Galbraith.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 24th 1982.

How many people observed that the Naturalist was folded differently?
We save 3 cents each copy with the new folding.

Publications received. Victorian Naturalist
Environment Victoria (CCV News) ECOS. N.T.Naturalist
SGAP. Maroondah Group Newsletter.

January Campout. Advised that cost of lodge will be \$100.00.

Decided to charge all \$5.00 for weekend. Contact Secretary if
Interested in coming to the campout, as names were coming in
rather quickly at the last meeting.

Christmas Party at Woorabinda school Camp December 18th.

All members invited to attend in the afternoon, bring your tea
Barbecue available. This is a very pleasant part of the activities
of the Club.

Orange Bellied Parrot Survey. The survey through extensive searches
had not found any more than 100 birds. 42 birds were found in Victoria.

None of these were found in the gippsland area. A thankyou to all who
took part in the survey comes from Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife
Service.

Discussion Paper. Latrobe Regional Commission. We had received several
copies of this paper and Questionnaire. Most of the Committee were reluc-
tant to fill in the questions asked. Decided that we would not support
the paper. We do not want to become politically involved.

Individual members may pursue this if they wish.

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Southwest Area Review (LCC) received.

SEC. Preliminary Environment Report, Yallourn Open Cut) received
East Field Diversion of Horwell river.

Mrs thompson was very disturbed by the botanical errors in this report.
She has stated her disappointment in the submission.

Alpine Report (LCC) received. There was much discussion re this report.
It was a difficult one to reply to. Eventually a decision was reached
as to how we should reply.

National Parks Association Calendar. Cost \$7.00

Available from VNPA Calendar Sales, Box 785f, G.P.O. Melbourne 3001.

Secretary has some order forms for calendar.

On behalf of the President and Committee We wish you all a Merry Christ-
mas and a Happy New Year.

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB
PROGRAMME FOR 1983.



| | | |
|--------|-----------|--|
| JAN. | 21st | Members' Night |
| JAN. | 29 - 31st | Camp out - Bunnerong Lodge - Baw Baw |
| FEB. | 25th | Mr. Charles McCubbin - Butterflies |
| FEB. | 26th | A related excursion |
| MARCH | 25th | Annual Meeting - Mr. Ross Scott - River Improvements |
| MARCH | 26th | Excursion to the Latrobe & Thomson Rivers |
| APRIL | 22nd | Dr. Malcolm Calder - Mistletoe |
| APRIL | 23rd | Excursion to the Heyfield area |
| MAY | 27th | Mr. R. Gaulton - Basics of Geology |
| MAY | 28th | A related excursion |
| JUNE | 24th | Ferns, Mosses & Lichens Guests: Mrs. Lyndon, Mrs. Bon Thompson & Mr. Jack Brooks |
| JUNE | 25th | Excursion to Mt. Worth State Park |
| JULY | 22nd | Mr. A. Wissendon - Problems & progress of the Blue Rock Dam |
| JULY | 23rd | Excursion to Blue Rock Dam |
| AUGUST | 26th | Mr. Ryan - Tree planting & planning in the Traralgon area |
| AUGUST | 27th | Crinigan Road Reserve |
| SEPT. | 23rd | Mrs. Joy Johnstone - Birds |
| SEPT. | 24th | Boat tour along the Lakes |
| OCT. | 15th | Extra excursion for orchids |
| OCT. | 28th | Mr. W. Cane - Propagation of native plants |
| OCT. | 29th | Excursion to the Channel country |
| NOV. | 3rd | Weekend camp to Wilson's Promintory |
| NOV. | 25th | Mr. J. Wall - Western Australia Trip |
| NOV. | 26th | Spotlighting in Morwell National Park |
| DEC. | 17th | Christmas Break-up to be held at Mr. & Mrs. Ringin's property. |
| JAN. | 1984 | An Alpine Camp out. |

Protect and
enjoy

We meet at the Moe Education Centre, Kirk St., Moe on the
4th Friday of each month.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows.

| <u>CLUB</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
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| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St. School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall BAIRNSDALE. |

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Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

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Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Road.
NEWBOROUGH 3828.

JANUARY, 1983.

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Latrobe Valley Naturalist



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COMING EVENTS.

Narragull F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday January 21st
Members Night.

A Happy New Year to all members.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday January 21st
Members Night. Bring slides to be
shown.

Excursion:

Weekend Campout at Mt Bay Daw
January 29, 30 31.

A Happy New Year to all Members.

NOVEMBER FILMS.

The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club meeting held on 26th November was well attended and those present were entertained by some absorbing films.

The theme was the Seashore Environment and covered a wide range of interests. Bass Strait, Pearson Island, Preservation Island and the waters of Corner Inlet were featured, and a selection of birds, animals and marine life which is found in these areas. The Rock Wallabies who attain greater mobility in their rocky habitat by not allowing their tails to touch down when they move around and the Cape Barren Geese which according to the commentator are second on the list of most rare geese were some of the featured species.

Another interesting feature to hold our interest was the cave on Preservation Island used by survivors of the ill fated ship "Sydney Cove" wrecked on the rocks 175 years ago.

In the deep offshore waters, underwater photography enabled the viewer to appreciate the graceful seals, beautiful creatures which in that environment bear no resemblance to the lumbering comics they appear to be when sunbaking on the rocks.

Various aspects of marine life to be found in rock pools were shown and a face familiar to viewers of A.B.C. nature programmes was seen again in the person of Dr Douglas Dorward.

When the evening was drawing to a close I reflected on how fortunate we are to be living so close to areas we had just seen on film, such as Corner Inlet which is such a treasure for people interested in Natural History.

Finally a word of thanks is due to President Jim Wall for organising the films.

John Brown.

SNAKES DO CLIMB TREES.

The day we walked to the top of Mount Oberon was hot and we started off as a group, but as we progressed on our walk, our group started to string out as we looked at this and that plant identifying species on the way. Eventually I was walking with Norma quietly up the track, when she heard a slight rustle to the right of us. I was quickly pulled to the centre of the track and we both turned our heads to look at an 8ft. (2.4 m) high tree trunk which had a deep cleft down its entire length. Three /Quarters of the way up this cleft was a nest of some sort, and from the right hand side slithering its sinuous, beautifully marked shiny body down the tree trunk was a 94 cm long Tiger Snake. It slithered down and round the cleft, and then appeared to hang on to the tree by a foot of its body, letting the tail end hang in a long straight line. In this manner the snake continued down the trunk to ground level and away to a hole which appeared to be behind a clump of reedleaves. Watching this event, it was obvious to us, the snake knew about the nest.

Peg Wall.

EXCURSION TO HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK. 25/9/82

A convoy of seven cars met at the old Rosedale Stables for our September excursion to the Holey Plains. Mr Peter Laurence, the Ranger, was once again our pleasant and interested guide for the day. Mrs Jane Calder, our guest speaker from the previous evening also accompanied us and once again inspired us with her wonderful enthusiasm for her subject. The day was warm and rather overcast as we entered the park along the Scenic Drive road.

Our first stop was at the smaller of the two swamps in the area, a large reedy scooped out basin surrounded by trees. Mr Laurence told us that the swamp, to the best of his knowledge, was never dry, although the source of the water was not known and underground seepage seemed a probable answer. Trees in the area were mainly shining Peppermint and Saw Banksia B. serrata.

Our next stop was further into the park, where we walked slowly through the bush with frequent stops to examine the many wildflowers in bloom. The Twining Fringe-lily was breathtakingly beautiful when viewed through Mrs Calder's optical lens magnifying glass. We saw pink boronias, hibbertias, sundews and Brachycome along the path.

When our guide eventually got us back to our vehicles, sighing that he should have remembered from last time we took the Wildflower Track which led through to the picnic area on the Holey Hill. After lunch we walked the same track we had traversed in May, now full of interest with delightful groupings of Wax-lip Orchids, Prostantheras, Correas, Kennedia prostrata, Caladenia carnea (Pink Fingers), Acianthus caudatus (May-fly Orchid) and however did Ollie Thompson spot that Mosquito Orchid Acianthus reniformis in all those hectares of forest?

The Holey Hills Pomaderris was in bloom and one big old man Banksia was judged to be 100 years old. A tiny sundew checked out to be Scarlet Sundew Drosera glanduligera. We marvelled at the varying shades of Love Creeper (Comesperma) and inspected an area which had been recently burned, but this did not yield much in regrowth, probably due to the intensity of the fire which had been particularly fierce.

We then followed the ranger down tracks between the pines, startling Kangaroos as we went. As we reached Herrimans Creek, the thunder clouds were gathering but they cleared as we walked the track which was thick with the leaves of orchids not yet in flower, past gullies which had recently been a mass of colour from thickets of Silver Wattles.

Stately Manna gums lined the lovely creek which meandered gently along this year with none of its usual spring turbulence. Many of us took mental note as we left, to return at another time in order to spend more time in this delightful area and more closely examine the flora, and study the bird life which was abundant but shy of our intrusion and hard to sight in the tree tops.

contd...pp 3

EXCURSION TO HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK contd...

As we took the road homeward, we stopped to examine another of the roadside verges where regeneration has taken place resulting in a kaleidoscope of wildflowers underfoot. Boronias were numerous, with Dillwynias, Pimelea, Pink Beard Heath, Golden Grevillea G.chrysophaea, Black-eyed susan Tetralathea pilosa and Rush lily Sowerbaea juncea.

Val Larson.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY IN NOVEMBER.

On Wilson's Promontory in November there are many flowers to be discovered. We were there for 5 days and the total number of plants identified was 163 species; but this is not surprising as we climbed Mt Oberon, walked through Lilly Pilly gully and of course inspected the shoreline area.

The Lilly Pilly Gully walk provided many ferns which were thriving despite the dry season. On the Mt Oberon climb we saw many heathland plants near the car park; but as we got higher the plant species changed. Because of the different habitat some of the plants we saw grew differently from in the Latrobe Valley e.g. the Hop Goodenia, as well as being a shrub also grows as a creeper and the Variable Groundsel Senecio laetifolius can grow with thick leaves like a succulent. Half the species of wattles recorded for the Prom were in bloom although several were almost finished. The White Kunzea was in full bloom and perfume and with the Coastal Tea-tree was a beautiful sight. The Small-leafed Clematis was almost in full seed which is perhaps its loveliest stage while Pink Bells Tetralathea ciliata was beautiful with bells on many branches on each plant and not more or less single stalks as they are in the Valley this year.

The Tiny Violets Viola sieberana with no hairs in its 'throat' was also in full bloom. The lovely wiry Bauera crept over the bushes wherever we went. Nine species of orchids were located in bloom with perhaps the Veined spider-orchid Caladenia reticulata with clubs on the ends of the sepals, being the one least known to the group.

Along the shoreline the cushion Bush, Purple Ragwort, Two-horned Sea Rockets, the Bower Spinach and the Purple Swainson-pea added colour and interest to our walks.

No visit to the Prom at this time of the year would be complete without the Crimson Berry Cyathodes juniperina which we saw with very many berries at Red Bluff.

I did not keep a record of the bird species identified; but we certainly saw many and the Crimson Rosella around Tidal river lived up to its reputation and all who wanted photos of them had plenty of opportunities.

These are only some of the interesting plants we saw and the "Prom" in November is certainly worth a visit.

Bon Thompson.

FLYING FOX IN LEONGATEA:

On 21st March last year three small boys appeared at our door bearing a dead flying fox. It had been electrocuted on the power wires in their street. Its fur was a grizzled grey except for a foxy-red mantle around its neck and shoulders, and its wing span measured 37 inches or 94 centimetres.

Consulting our books on native animals we decided that this was the Grey-headed flying fox, Pteropus poliocephalus, which occurs from south of Rockhampton through eastern N.S.W. to Northern Victoria. There are four species of large flying foxes but only two of them have been recorded in Victoria. In certain years they seem to extend their range to the south and west, and are liable to raid orchards between Mallacoota and Orbost each year, as well as the Murray fruit-growing areas.

In 1943 Victoria had a visitation and I can recall the foxes draped over the power lines here in the 1950's. Blossoming trees also attract the foxes and some solids are thought to be eaten, such as pollen, seeds and berries. It seems they drink while on the wing, lapping the water as they flit over the surface. This sometimes lands them in trouble where barbed wire fences cross drains and dams.

In the Victorian Naturalist, Sept?October 1981, Richard Loyn records a large flock of the little Red Flying-fox roosting at the Barmah Lakes on the Murray. They were observed belly-flopping into the water of a creek, flying to a nearby tree and hanging themselves up to lick the water from their fur. Whether this is their drinking method or just a means of cooling themselves on a hot day is not known with certainty. We need more observations on the habits of flying-foxes. Has anyone else noticed them in Gippsland last season.

Ellen Lyndon.

Ref. Troughton. 1957. *Furred animals of aust.*

Ride. 1970. *Guide to Native Mammals of aust.*

FROM A LETTER.

This week Bernice took us to the old Everton railway line. It was a perfect day and we enjoyed it so much. We ate our lunch where we could see the Jacky Winter feeding young ones in the nest we found last time. The flowers were not so good as they were then.

May Galbraith.

BIRD NOTE.

Pied Currawongs have a stick nest as big as a pudding bowl, in the Yellow Box by my gate. The young birds hatched this week.

Jean Galbraith.

The last two articles are from early December.

Ed.

WELSON'S PROMONTORY.SATURDAY MORNING:

It was certainly a hot morning, but after our introduction to the geology of the granite along Tidal River we waded ankle to almost knee deep in the pleasant coolness of the stream and were refreshed, crossing it for the last time where it enters Norman Bay.

The tide was low and the sea almost waveless, sparkling and beautiful with bands of indigo and peacock blue, and jade green in the shallows. We walked almost westward on the firm wet sand of the bay, stopping beside encrusted rocks, and pools where a pattern of broken shell and sand showed where sea anemones had buried themselves under a raised camouflage which was partly the debris of their last meal.

A little geology was still mixed with our study of marine life. Ranger Gill anderson who had described to us some of the mysteries of crystallising and faulting granite now introduced us to some of the mysteries of the sea.

Every rock that had been covered by the high tides was encrusted by mussels and barnacles. The commonest ones (often called Acorn Barnacles). Covered many of the rocks in dense colonies. The name is appropriate for they are rather the shape of a short wide acorn. The "acorn cup" is the main shell, and a protruding lid which lifts when the barnacle is feeding while covered by the tide, forms the "acorn". It is not a simple lid such as many shells have, but a trapdoor of two segments which lift up when the occupant is feeding. Unlike the usual creatures which inhabit shells on the beach it is not a mollusc but a crustacean -related to shrimps.

Often sharing rocks with the barnacles, or sometimes with limpets of all sizes, were mussels. They were more often in colonies wholly covering the sides of rocks. Hundreds of them, dark blue or black, tiny double shells joined edge to edge and standing out from the rock like the points of a nutmeg-grater, covered the lower rocks near the sand. They were small -perhaps 1cm long in a zone pounded by waves as the tide comes in. Each double shell (officially a bivalve) encloses a small mollusc, but when covered with water the shells open their lips to allow the creature inside to feed on plankton - the rich "soup of the sea" which is the food of most of the molluscs and related creatures. It is not visible to us but consists of innumerable microscopic living things. The molluscs and other similar creatures have usually feather-like or hair-like cilia which sweep plankton and water into their mouths (or equivalent organs), strain out the food and let the water go back to the sea.

Whole rocks covered with mussels varied in colour from the tiny black ones at the base to much larger (2.5 cm long) blue or prune purple near the top.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY.

contd...

The only sea anemones not hidden by sand were the orange anemones like lumps of orange jelly. Like the green anemones and red "Waratah" species they would open up when covered by the tide into a flower-like clump of short tentacles.

We saw only one sea star, bluntly star-shaped and grey-green, with rows of suckers under each lobe of the star, making a pattern radiating from the jelly-like ball that is its closed mouth. The sea stars feed on molluscs. Their suckers attached to the outside of the molluscs double shell pull it open and as they have no hands to pull out the contents they simply push out an open stomach, enclose the contents of the shell, digest it, and return to where they came from, leaving an empty shell on the sand.

Along the lower part of some rocks were tangled masses of thin white tubes, each tube open at the end. They are the limy retreats of tube worms, not very beautiful, and conspicuous only because of their tangled abundance, but when the tide covers them delicate filaments will float through the entrance (only 2.5 mm wide) and begin to sweep through the water bringing food into the tube. But we only saw the whitish limy tubes. Their delicate beauty is kept for feeding times.

Nearest the shallow waves of ebb tide is the cunjevoi, sometimes a mat of coalescing spongy individuals, rather like a doormat made of yellowish brown sponge dotted with holes, but here and there we saw a solitary one - a brownish lump with two round holes. Through one water and plankton are sucked into the vase-like interior; through the other it is squirted out - minus plankton which stays to be digested. That is why cunjevoi is sometimes called Sea Squirt.

We had much to talk of and remember as we walked home, and much to thank our two companions for as we said goodbye to the ranger in charge and to Gill who had showed us so many things.

Jean Galbraith.

There was no Committee Meeting held in December.
The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 19th at the home of Mr and Mrs Thompson, Downies Lane Traralgon South at 7.30pm.

The supper roster will be available at the January meeting awaiting names for supper duty each month.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows.

| <u>CLUB</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O.Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE.</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3844 | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St. School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall BAIRNSDALE. |

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COMING EVENTS.

Warragul F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday February 18th

Annual Meeting

Excursion:

Sunday February 20th

Contact Secretary for details.

Latrobe Valley F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday February 25th

Speaker:

Mr Charles McCubbin

Excursion:

Saturday February 26th to Thomson Dam

Meeting Place:

Rawson Information Centre at 10.00Am

ROCKPOOLING AROUND THE BUNURONG.

The South Gippsland Conservation Society has from time to time produced some interesting and instructive booklets dealing with the natural history of their countryside. Their latest handbook, fresh from the printer in the New Year, is their most ambitious to date. It is entitled "Rockpooling around the Bunurong", as that cliff-lined coast between Inverloch and Cape Patterson has come to be called, after the long gone aboriginal tribe that once fished and hunted in these very rock pools.

Co-authors are our member Margaret rowe and her friend Fiona Eagger, together with illustrator christine Larsen. Much exacting work and many hasty trips to the beach have gone into identifying, describing and drawing the many forms of marine life found along the rich shore platforms. For weeks Margaret's living room reeked of seaweed, while strange creepy crawlies oozed, waved and goggled from her numerous fishtanks. All of them, let me hasten to add, were eventually returned to the bosom of mother ocean, each to its very own pool, if I know Margaret !

The introduction touches briefly on the geological aspect, the laying down of the sandstones and mudstones in Cretaceous seas, the undercutting of the shoreline by the sea to form the cliffs, caves and platforms which are swept by the tides. Rock platforms are not general round our coasts and these are considered to be among the very best in the State. The authors point out how easily such a sensitive area may be ruined by thoughtless and careless usage. There follows some advice on how to use the handbook, how to get the most enjoyment out of rockpooling without damage to the environment, and a warning about the blue-ringed octopus.

The text covers the marine life from the algae or seaweeds, through anemones, corals, tubeworms, the better known limpets and shellfish to the crabs and starfish, all beautifully illustrated and clearly described. The booklet covers are blue as the sea, are small and light, so that the interested visitor may carry it around the reefs and identify most of the life forms that live there. The authors and the printer are to be congratulated on this neat and useful guide to the rockpools, and we join with them in hoping that it will lead to a greater respect for the wonderful marine communities that make their homes there, instead of just regarding them all as potential fisherman's bait !

E. Lyndon.

The booklet is available from the Environment Centre, Inverloch and from the Club, if you are interested in obtaining a copy, contact the Secretary who will arrange for you to have a booklet. Cost \$2.00

GEOLOGY AND MARINE LIFE NEAR INVERLOCH. 27/11/82

In the morning of the November Excursion, Mr Rowe explained the features of the rocks of the Bunurong cliffs a few kilometres west of Inverloch. During the afternoon low tide we examined the multitude of marine life forms on the rock platforms under the guidance of Mrs Rowe.

On the track down to the beach from the car park we observed the Otway Daisy-bush Olearia phlogopappa and the Coast Beard-heath, Leucopogon parviflorus; but after that we did not give a thought to land plants for the rest of the day.

We examined the sedimentary rocks in the cliffs. The rocks were deposited in layers in a large lake system in a basin which extended from the Tasman Sea to the Otways. The plant fossils in the rocks are of fresh water and land material and not of sea origin. The layers consist of sandstone, mudstone which is of much finer texture, and conglomerate which consists of coarse stones embedded in fine material. These stones probably collected on the floor of the ancient basin at places where the water flow in streams and channels was reduced. All these sediments were laid down during the Lower Cretaceous period about 120 million years ago. This was the time of the dinosaurs - isolated bone fragments have been discovered in the conglomerate bands from the Bunurong Cliffs to the Otways.

We then examined the fractures and faults cutting across the layers of rock. Fractures are cracks where no movement has occurred, but where movement has displaced the layers on either side of the crack, it is then termed a fault. From the change in the angle of the rock layers alongside the fault it may be seen that the rocks to the west of the fault have been downthrown relative to uplift on the eastern side.

Mr Rowe used acid to show that calcite has been concentrated in the fracture planes of these rocks. This calcium rich mineral has probably originated from the feldspars contained in granite of an even earlier period of rock formation.

Members collected examples of fossilized wood, rocks containing limonite (an iron compound with a chemical composition similar to rust) which makes the rocks harder and so less susceptible to erosion, rocks containing traces of black coal and others with patterns of fossilized plant leaves.

We examined a dyke where molten basalt had been forced up into a fracture in the sandstone. We tried to reach some caves, but the tide was too high for us to enter them. The caves have been formed along a fault line where erosion has taken place along the line of weakness. Ground water seeped down through from above and wave action attacked it from sea level. Swallows were flying in and out of the caves, presumably nesting within. Along the cliff face was a colony of kelp plies in a swarm clustered so closely they appeared as a dark stain on the cliff face until they were disturbed.

GEOLOGY AND MARINE LIFE NEAR INVERLOCH. contd...

We spent the afternoon on a rock platform examining the creatures living on or among the rocks which are exposed at low tide. Animals and seaweeds which have some form of protection from the drying wind, the sun and the pounding waves live on exposed surfaces. Many of these are inactive when exposed, and some shelter inside shells. The majority of animals and plants shelter under ledges, rocks, in sand, in rockpools or among seaweed.

The variety of life we found was quite amazing and most interesting, particularly as Mrs Vowe was able to identify the creatures and explain something of their ways of life. Red Vock Crabs, Hairy Stone Crabs and small shore Crabs were easily identified. Several types of limpet were found - Slit Limpets, Eight-rayed Limpets, Tall-ribbed Limpets - these were either under water or clamped tightly to the exposed rocks. By contrast, False Limpets, which breathe air, were seen grazing on exposed seaweed-covered rocks. Two types of chitons or "Coat of Mail Shells" created interest as did a huge Elephant Snail. Many empty Ear shells or Abalone shells were found. Several types of barnacles cemented to the exposed rocks included Honey-comb, Surf and Rosette Barnacles. Of course sea stars were found - these included common Sea Stars, Small Green Sea Stars and Sea Biscuits. Sea Anemones found included Red Waratah, small bright orange and white ones, and a large pinkish-orange one with grey tentacles. A pretty orange sponge about the size and shape of a golf ball and cushions of mauve sponge were seen in rock pools. Toad fish out-stared us from a small pool and sea squirts squirted the interfering hand.

A number of worms of various types and sizes were seen : flat worms hidden under rocks, bristle worms inside flimsy tubes constructed of mucus and little pieces of gravel and sand, and serpulid worms in their rigid limey tubes. But the Peanut Worm stole the show! It was almost the size and shape of a shelled peanut, but to move and feed it projects part of its body into a narrow tube longer than the length of its body - a truly fascinating creature.

Algae of many colours and shapes added colour to the rocks. Under rocks brilliant red sea mosses caught the eye. Sea Mosses are colonies of microscopic animals and can be red, brown or white. The red colonies were so thin that they appeared flat on the rock surface, and yet each tiny creature has a ring of tentacles which it uses to collect even smaller organisms for food. Because of the lime skeletons these sea mosses are brittle to touch.

These are just a few of the creatures seen by us and identified by Mrs Rowe. Mrs Rowe and two colleagues have recently compiled and illustrated a booklet for the south Gippsland Conservation Society. "Rockpooling around the Bunurong" It is available from the Environment Centre, 12 A'Beckett St. Inverloch at a cost of \$2.00 per copy. All the creatures mentioned above and many others are described in the booklet.

Bon Thompson.

AN UNUSUAL FIND.

When about to enter my drive-way at about 11 30 am on 15th January I saw what I first thought to be a White-faced Heron that visits my pool from time to time. I found it was not the Heron but a mottled brown bird.

It was crossing the road with long, fairly slow steps, with its head moving as though it repeatedly extended its neck and then allowed itself to catch up to it - a leisurely movement, as was its walk.

Although I had never seen a Bittern, it suddenly occurred to me that this was one. I stopped the car and watched it enter my long-grassed road-side enclosure, which is mottled with dry dock heads and tufts of darkly-dry grass. The bird wandered through the grass coming directly towards me. Each time it paused, the head was raised to a more or less vertical position - almost looking like another dry dock, as the head and back were, I think, somewhat darker than the rest of it.

I watched it for nearly half an hour, losing sight of it and then suddenly locating its upward extended head ... until its camouflage won the day.

Perhaps an hour later, I caught sight of a very large brown bird flying towards my neighbour's almost reed-buried dam (almost dry) over the hill, but it disappeared behind a widespread Red Gum and was gone when I sought to follow its flight. Was it a Bittern? My dam lacks reed habitat for such a large bird.

Honor Crane.

BIRDING ALONG THE SNOWY RIVER.

Birds of about 60 species though most were few in numbers. Rainbow Birds, several pairs very close to camp, cleaning out tunnels, feeding and courtship feeding, followed by copulation.

A pair of painted quail right in camp several times, feeding on or around the prickly plant specimen enclosed. There was little if anything else growing right there on otherwise bare sand. Their tracks were all around the scattered plants. We saw the female quail puff up as she called "oom-oom-oom" sounding extremely like bronze-wing pigeons; forest species of which were also near camp, (three at a time). Marie heard the quail calling during the night also.

I saw a pair of rufous-tailed(horsfield)bronze cuckoos feeding from the same plant as the quail, but couldn't see any insects or larvae. Probably didn't look hard enough!

Only 3 honeyeaters were present. Fuscous most numerous, yellow-tufted next, and a few only yellow-faced.

One pair hooded robins on one side of our camp - very secretive - and another pair with one flying young one at the nearest gully. Grey fantails scarce, only one pair on each side of camp; about 1 km. each way. Both had nests.

Joy Johnstone.
from a letter to Miss Galbraith.

THE STORKS DISAPPEARED.

In the year 1938 I made an 8 mm. movie about the life of the storks in Holland. The storks arrive in March- April (spring) and disappear in August. Most of them travel via the Bosphorus east of the Mediterranean, others via Spain and Gibraltar. All direction east and south Africa. Many storks come year after year to the same places to build their nests.

Before arrival I had built an observation post, high on a mast near a nest, not far from our hometown Leewarden, the capital of Friesland, one of the most northern provinces of Holland. In the province of Friesland there were 39 occupied nests of storks in 1931. This amount increased to 58 in 1939, then fell back to 21 nests in 1941 and gradually less storks came to build nests. The last nest was built in 1972 and there have been no more stork families since. We are not sure of the cause for their disappearance, but pollution has a lot to do with it. In Prussia in Germany, and also in Denmark there are plenty of storks.

After long thoughts I decided to send my stork movie back to Friesland and it was gladly accepted there. It is now of historical value and is in the Friesian Museum of Natural History.

A letter from the Museum tells me the latest news about the storks. In our province they started two "Stork-farms". There they rear storks from imported eggs and release the birds in the hope that they will come back next year and start a family. In that way they try to reintroduce the storks into Holland.

Bart Sterkenburg,

These words were voiced in 1898 by John Muir, naturalist, conservationist and pioneer spokesman for the National Parks of America we all enjoy today.

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers but as fountains of life".

I wonder what John Muir would think about today?

Peg Hall sent this information.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JANUARY 19th 1983.

Discussion re Baw Baw Campout re the weather, fire danger etc..
Decided to discuss further at general meeting. Some members had decided not to go because of hot weather, but it was felt there were still sufficient interested to continue with arrangements.

Subscriptions to be paid to L.V.Forum, F.N.C.V., F.N.C.A..

V.N.P.A. advised re the campout and meeting at Piangil (Macropus Park) on March 12th Labour weekend. March 12, 13, 14. Programme available from Secretary.

Macropus Park is situated 18 Km South West of Kerang, Cabins, Camping or on site vans available.

CORRESPONDENCE . C.C.V. Council Meeting Agenda, Safari Tours Information. N.E Newsletter (Tas) N.T. Naturalist, Geelong Naturalist, Clematis, Victorian Naturalist. Booklet "Rook Pooling around the Bunurong".

Advised that meeting room has been booked for 1983.

CLUB RECORDS. All minutes and correspondence have been sorted out and indexed by Mrs Thompson. The pile of books is now much smaller since the irrelevant material has been discarded. We feel it is important to keep the Club records for future reference.

CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR

Letter to Miss Callister re Morwell National Park.

Replies from Ministry of conservation re correspondence.

Concern re clear felling of pines near area of Pterostylis fischii which is a rare orchid. The area is on private property. negotiations to preserve the area have commenced.

Supper roster February 25th Peg Wall Pearl Reeves .

Next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 23rd at the home of Mrs Peterson. 14 Barry St. Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Excursion February 26th. Mr McCubbin is unable to attend excursion which should have been related to the talk. Decided that we visit Thomson Dam area. We are to meet at Rawson Information Centre at 10.00 am.

Information received re R.A.O.U. Courses at Rotamah Island.

Introductory Field Ornithology David Baker-Gabb and Kate Fitzherbert.
Dates 18-21 March 1983. Cost \$70.00.

What Bird is yours -migrant, nomad or stay-at-home ?

Leader Pauline Reilly. 22-25 April 1983. Cost \$70.00

For information re courses contact Rotamah Island Observatory P.O.Box 75
Paynesville, Vic. 3880. Tel. (051) 566 398

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows.

| <u>CLUB</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.W.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.W.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O. Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE.</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.W.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3800 | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St. School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.W.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.W.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall BAIRNSDALE. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 169
NEWBOROUGH 3828.

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to

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NEWBOROUGH 3828.

MARCH, 1983.

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COMING EVENTS.

Warraquul F.H.C.

Meeting :

Speaker:

Friday March 18th

Clarie McDermid "Birds of South Africa"
Illustrated talk.

Excursion

Meet at Civic Car Park Warraquul
at 9.00 am :

Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.H.C.

Meeting :

Speaker:

Friday March 25th

Mark Doyle (Ranger Bulga Park)

"Management and activities of
Monangatta Moroka Park"

Excursion:

Meeting Place:

Saturday March 26th to Bulga Park
Traralgon High School at 10.00 am

THE BAW BAW WEEKEND.(One Woman's View.)

The first party arrived at Bunerong Lodge on Friday afternoon to find the mountain vegetation bright green and fresh, starred with flowers, a complete contrast to the sunburnt plains we had left below. Up here it was still spring.

The ski lodge was cool and restful, the lounge carpeted in moss green with brown furnishings; the kitchen spacious and convenient, and, to cap it all, a balcony among the treetops overlooking the creek valley. Eric was automatically appointed head of the house, a post he filled with great competence, and in all domestic crises it was "Where's Eric", "Quick! Get Eric", and he always sorted out our problems. 27 people turned up and all got a bed each.

The Club botanists being mostly absent this year, interests seemed more diverse. Birds, frogs, butterflies, march flies and mosquitoes, as well as orchids and flowers, all came in for scrutiny and comment, some more than others! We renewed acquaintance with Geelong members in Baw Baw Lodge and some of us followed their trapper, Betty, on her rounds. It will be remembered that this Club, on a previous visit, captured Lead-beater's Possum, a feat that, for a while, none of us would believe. They didn't trap it, either. Someone shinned up a snow gum and brought it down in his shirt! This time the ten small traps yielded an Antechinus, or marsupial mouse, the first night. *A. stuartii* I think. We all had a good look at it as it tried to sink its tiny teeth into the hand that held it. Next night the catch was one bush rat, a robust fellow that nobody offered to hold.

On Sunday morning an F.C.V. officer came to lead the main walk and the majority followed him over hill and dale, doing a round tour of the mountain. Others followed their own inclinations to rest or laze or do shorter walks. On each evening certain of us trudged up to the lookout to watch the sun set over the misty plains. It assumed the oddest shapes as it sank below the rim of the earth and we saw clearly that it was reflecting off a large body of water. This led to lively arguments as to whether we were looking at Westernport, Port Phillip or Bass Strait. With each succeeding evening the watchers grew in number and so did the arguments, until the wonder of the golden after glow silenced everyone. As darkness deepened after the long twilight clusters of diamonds grew in brightness along the main line, a truly memorable experience to see it all unfold from our mountain top. In the early mornings, for those who rose to see, Latrobe Valley was blotted out by a level blanket of white cloud, a few humps denoting buried towers and chimneys. For my part, I felt it was one of the most enjoyable weekends we've had, good weather, good company and pleasant surrounds. Our sincere thanks to Eric and to June too, who spared no effort to make us comfortable. I'm sure we all wished we could stay the week. For those who would like detailed lists of the Baw Baw flora many accounts have been published in our Club journal over the years. Perhaps we could republish one.

Ellen Lyndon.

MEMBERS NIGHT JANUARY 1983.

Members night is always an enjoyable evening when members show slides of interest.

We started the evening with Mr Wall's slides taken while on safari to the Kakadu National Park. The aboriginal paintings were of kangaroos snakes, turtles, spirit men and xray paintings. Sometimes paintings were on top of another. These paintings were painted with red, yellow and orange ochres on sandstone overhangs and were well preserved as they were considered to be about 20,000 years old. As well as their beauty and their spiritual and cultural significance the paintings provide a valuable record of the environment of the past.

Miss Galbraith's slides of Tasmania were very topical in view of the proposed Franklin River Dam. Slides of the rainforest showed the damp beech forest, with its subdued light, and the trunks of the trees covered in moss and the ground a carpet of mosses and ferns. Huon Pines Dacrydium franklinii, such a feature of this rainforest grow only in Tasmania and take anything from 500-1000 years to mature. An unusual plant of the highlands is the Pandani Richea pandanifolia although resembling a tropical palm is in reality a heath and grows to a height of 4-9 metres. Another plant endemic to Tasmania is the climbing heath Prionotes cerinthoides, this beautiful red heath grows in the sub-alpine rainforest. ~~The Tasmanian waratah Telopea truncata was lovely, as~~ was a clematis, not climbing as our own does, but a small bush.

Barry Traill's slides were taken while in the South West Tasmania with a University research group. The slide of the group, fully packed walking through the wet mountains showed the walk was only for the very fit person. Walking through the windswept heathlands where the button grass was the predominant plant was comparatively easy, but there were small streamlets and boggy areas. The well forested Precipitous Bluff is in danger due to applications to mine the high grade limestone on and around the area. Sunsets over several lagoons were breathtaking. Barry mentioned that although wildlife was not apparent in the south West the area supports a surprising number, particularly the smaller mammals, some of these were caught and studied. A slide of the broad-toothed rat was a good one. However it was felt that many more plants and animals would be discovered with further research into the whole area.

Mr and Mrs Thompson's slides were taken on various excursions and members were reminded of:-

The scarlet sundew Drosera glanduligera on our September excursion to Holey Plains.

The magnificent red gum Euc. cypellocarpa on Mary Austin's uncle's farm. Two slides of the clematis C. microphylla, one of the flower and one of the seed which is such a feature of this plant.

The big Applebox Euc. bridgesiana on the Stradbroke Gormandale road which has been placed on the register of significant trees. This tree is in danger due to plans to re-align the road.

MEMBERS NIGHT

contd...

Mr and Mrs Thompson's slides contd...

The most southerly mangrove in the world taken at Miller's Landing at Wilson's Promontory, but from Tongue Point was a lovely slide taken of the beautiful offshore islands.

Spleenworts, Ferns and Fungi of Bulga Park were well remembered.

We were reminded of the wide variety of birds seen at Mr and Mrs Brumby's property.

Finally who could forget those beautiful vivid red trigger plants Stylidium graminifolium at Mt Tamboritha.

Mr Ringin's slides of the twin eucalypts near Alice Springs were interesting. One slide showed the two trees side by side and another taken side on so they looked as one tree, they well earned the name of twin trees. Devils Marbles are a collection of large granite boulders and were photographed taking advantage of the early morning light. The slides of a Barn Owl, tawny frogmouth and the bower bird's bower were interesting. A field of sunflowers growing in the Ord River area showed the scheme was operating well.

Mr Sterkenburg's slides were taken in the snow at Mt. Kosciusko and Mt Baw Baw National Parks. The snow covered snow gums were particularly beautiful. At one of our campouts at Baw Baw, Mr Sterkenburg was very keen to photograph the Baw Baw frog so photographed all frogs in sight, about 20 in all, but none were the right one. However we saw several frogs taken at that time and we all remembered the fun and happiness of that particular campout.

Slides of the Flinders Ranges, Wilpena Pound, Parachilna gorge, the blue of Salvation Jane and the red Sturt Desert Pea were good.

An amusing slide of Bart standing "in the middle of nowhere" holding a stumpy-tailed lizard by its tail with the commentary that it was "Sterkenburg in the wild" made us all laugh.

The evening concluded with slides of the tulips of Holland. These flowers are grown mostly for the bulbs and the beautiful heads of the flowers are just cut off. No bought fertilizers are used, only the heads of the cut flowers and silt dredged from the canals are used. Windmills are extensively used to pump water from the canals to water these plants.

The evening was very informal and members enjoyed being together again after the Christmas break.

Iris Peterson.

The other day whilst watering the garden with a hand held hose I noticed a bird in the distance, which came slowly closer to the source of the spray of water. It wasn't long before the Blackbird was under the spray, stretching his glossy black wings, and holding back his head, opening his beak for the water to trickle down his throat. I must have stood for about 5 minutes before he had finished his ablutions. I think it was the first time I've ever given a Blackbird a shower.

Peg Hall.

LETTER FROM BEECHWORTH.

Friday, although I was so busy, snatched a few hours 8.30am-12.30pm to drive with Fran to see the Fringe-lilies. There were very few Fringe-lilies but the Finger Flower was just at its best, so much of it on all tracks we were thrilled. It is a beautiful rich colour. Coming home we turned where the four roads meet and instead of driving around the rock drove out to the road through different country. Hundreds of Blue Pin-cushions and some red Grevillea still out. I saw a green grassy place and walked down there and found all sorts of treasure. A big patch of the biggest and tallest I've ever seen of Fairies Aprons and in the centre of the thickest patch some pure white ones! "White Aprons" how appropriate. There were lots of the later Chocolate flower D. fimbriatus with larger pinker flowers in fact only habit of growth assured me it wasn't a Fringe Lily. Then there were Billy Buttons and a large patch of Pale Vanilla Lillies so tall and spreading they were like a planted crop, thousands together and mostly the first flower just out. Also the Yellow Rush Lily and goodenia and a huge patch of Dianella revoluta in a dryer spot under the big Red Gums. Then the birds! Brown Tree Creepers were the most conspicuous and I saw their nesting hollow and a young one learning to fly. The thrushes were singing and White-plumed Honeyeaters, Orioles, Dusky Woodswallows embroidering the bare limbs of the tallest trees, Eastern Rosellas, Cuckoo's trilling and, once a little Lorikeet darted past with a high screech. I brought Francie, who was sitting patiently near the car having returned from her explore before me, down to the place and she was as entranced as I was and walking back we noticed of Silver-leaf Stringies! Euc cinerea. I was looking up at the trees when a loud whirr at my feet made me jump, it was a Quail and there was the nest with four spotted eggs!

Hay Galbraith.

from a letter to Jean Galbraith.

YOU WON'T GET STUNG ANYMORE !

I wrote an article about the Storks in Holland. This time I have some interesting news from that country, especially for beekeepers. Can you imagine the map of Holland with a string of islands in the North. The biggest on the left, the smallest, called Schiermounckoo, on the right. On this small island they developed "a new strain of stingless bees". All the bees on the island are now stingless and they are not spoiled by the drones of the mainland. The distance is too far for the drones.

This so called "bee farm" is owned by a group of enthusiastic apiarists. Several hives of stingless bees are now transported to the mainland and a sort of "beach head" is formed there. Of course the mainland drones are infiltrating the stingless families and destroying part of the new race! But the bee-farmers are pouring new fresh material into the beach head in the hope of winning the battle of the stingless bees. I hope they win - I don't like beestings!

Bart Sterkenburg.

ABOUT ANTS.

One of our local sanctuaries is an old gravel reserve that was never used as such. It carries a messmate peppermint association with an understory of teatrees, Leptospermum phyllicoides and L. juniperinum, in clumps, with a little Swamp Paperbark, Melaleuca ericifolia. Bracken fern has increased considerably since the area was fenced from stock. Drifts of the Hoddington greenhood, Pterostylis nutans, spring everywhere. There are occasional patches of Common Bird Orchids, Chiloglottis gunnii, and lots of common Heath.

I am adding plants typical of such associations which have been lost there. In most places the spade bounces right back off the hardpan about 10 cm, down, and it's a case of feeling around for softer spots to give a shrub a reasonable chance of surviving the first summer.

-b Certain areas of the reserve are infested by ants that live in extensive colonies. They sometimes throw up circular sand palisades around each underground entrance, quite noticeable rings, even among grass. It is a pleasure to feel the spade slide deeply down through the ant-cultivated soil. It is deep, so that a spade's depth never turns out any ants or traces of same. In fact it was quite a job to locate a few of the inmates for identification purposes. The ants do not interfere in any way with small plants or shrubs.

I am indebted to the entomologist at the National Museum for the determination of Athanogaster longiceps nystalomyrma, and he agrees with me that, from the point of view of soil aeration these ants could be called soil improvers. They seem to live only in unbroken scrubland and the adjacent similar roadsides. It is rising land and very dry for most of the year.

Ellen Lyndon.

Can any member provide material to fill spaces like this?

*There must be some interesting happenings during your travels.
Or some nature observations near home.*

The editor will be pleased to receive your notes.

Don't forget the Annual Meeting March 25th. And the election of Office bearers. This is an important part of the Club. Please give serious consideration to nominating someone for one of the vacant offices. The Club cannot function satisfactorily without Office bearers.

Subscriptions will also be due at this meeting. Details on back page.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 23rd.

Excursion February 26th. In view of the fire danger in the area it was decided to cancell the excursion until a later date. We can arrange with the M.M.B.W. to visit the Thomson Dam at a more suitable time.

Advised that the details

Advised that the details published re the Traralgon F.N.C. are incorrect. No details are forthcoming from this Club so we cannot be blamed for the error.

The scheduled speaker for March cannot attend. The Secretary will try to replace him

ANNUAL MEETING. March 25th.

The election of office bearers will be to elect President 2 years

Vice President No 1 (1 year) Treasurer 2 years.

Publicity Officer 2 years Assistant Secretary 2 years.

All members urged to give serious consideration to these elections.

The Club cannot function without office bearers. Please give thought to nominating someone to fill the above vacancies. Nomination forms included in this Naturalist.

Subscriptions will be due at the annual Meeting.

Naturalist costs. This matter to be reviewed every 6 months.

Decided that as we had obtained paper at a reasonable cost, we could defer any increase for the time being.

Correspondence.

Tasmanian Wilderness society re rally Feb 26th. and posters

A.C.F. pamphlets. C.C.V. posters.

A.C.F. Gordon below Franklin literature.

People for Nuclear Disarmament Rally to be held March 27th in the

Treasury Gardens Melbourne at 1.00 pm.

VETA (NZ) N.E. Naturalist (Tas) N.T.F.N.C. Newsletter.

SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter. ECOS.

CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR.

Register of Significant Trees. Correspondence with rosedale Thire re tree on "Apple Box Corner". The tree is in danger due to road alignment.

V.N.P.A. correspondence re National Parks classifications.

Supper Roster March 25th. Mrs Huxley Mrs Merson.

The next Committee meeting will be held at the home of Mr and Mrs Lubcke 122a Helen Street Morwell on Wednesday March 23rd at 7.30 pm.

Any interested members are welcome at these meetings.

We have heard that Mr and Mrs Sterkenburg celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 19th. Congratulations to you both from your friends of L.V.F.N.C.

 SUPPLEMENT TO LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

 LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB.

The Club thanks you for your support and looks forward to your continued membership for 1983 - 1984

Subscriptions to 31st March 1984 become due on 31st March 1983.

Herewith remittance for Annual Subscription

| | | | |
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P.O.Box 169
NEWBOROUGH 3825.

If you are already financial for 1983 - 1984
please disregard this notice.

 LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB
 NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE.

I wish to nominate
of for the position
of of this Club.

Proposer.....

Seconder.....

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the above office
.....

These nomination forms to be in the hands of the Secretary before
the Committee Meeting March 23rd 1983.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing clubs are as follows.

| <u>CLUB</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 342129 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>HOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O. Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 458238 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE.</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | Mr K. Weigold 7 Graham Cres. TRARALGON 3800 | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building TRARALGON Kosciusko St. School. |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library, WARRAGUL |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00pm. on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall BAIRNSDALE. |

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Mrs L. Padfield
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NEWBOROUGH 3828.

APRIL, 1983.
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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday April 15th

Illustrated Talk by J.&N. Brooks

Cararvon Gorge and Chilligoe Caves

National Park Qld.

Excursion:

Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday April 22nd

Speaker:

Dr.H. Calder "Mistletoe"

Excursion:

Saturday April 23rd. to Boola area

Meeting Place:

Tyers at 10.00 am

TALK BY CHARLES McCUBBIN.

25/2/83

Mr Charles McCubbin guest speaker at the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club stated that the purpose of his talk was to show how the distribution of plants and insects in Australia can equate beautifully with the theory of Continental drift, which until 10 or 15 years ago was hotly disputed by many geologists, but it is now fairly widely accepted.

Mr McCubbin explained how the earth was once a single land mass which divided into two Continents - north and south. The south splitting up into the continents that we know today; Antarctica, South America, Africa, Australia and India. India finally attached itself to the north Continent which is now Asia. He became interested in the drift theory and after going on three expeditions into South-west Tasmania for the National Museum in the 1960's long before the Hydro schemes were mooted. He stated that the expedition personnel were the first people to look at the invertebrates in this region. Not many people think of Australia as recently glaciated but in south-west Tasmania in some of the mountain ranges there are still signs of being glaciated as recent as 10,000 years ago. If you stand on top of Mt Hayes in the Western Australian Ranges you can look at a landscape more akin to Switzerland than Australia. The valleys are characterised by long glacial moraines going out in ranks from the ridge of the mountains. The climate is so severe, being governed by the Roaring Forties, that any plant life is miniaturised, and grows in the shelter of rocks, or lies close to the ground. The remarkable part of South West Tasmania, once you came down from 3 or 4,000 ft (900 -1200 metres) you go into a world of primeval forests, consisting of Beech trees and pine covered in epiphytes. Mount Bowes is getting near the division of 120 and 60 inch rainfall, and this is where the Eucalypts which characterise the mainland forest are seen, while the Beech and Pine trees characterise the much older forest of South West Tasmania. Temperature as much as anything controls the size of insects and as insects breathe by gaseous diffusion, it is the rate that these gases diffuse and slow down when the temperature drops that limits the size of the insect in colder climates. Except where insects generate their own heat, which some of them do. That is why you get larger insects in the tropics. The inter-dependence and symbiotic relationship of feeding, living, mating, breeding habits plus camouflage and climate was given in great detail in insects, butterflies, and dragonflies, these being the oldest living insect on the fossil record.

Vast areas of Australia are arid, once covered with stunted trees, saltbush or spinifex. Land clearance and overgrazing, which have been going on for over a century, are inexorably turning much of it into another Arabian desert. Richest of all our environments is the tropical environment, from the ridge leading up to the Lamington Plateau a world of many vines and incredible variety of plants and insects. Over the years man has through necessity to exist, greed, and ignorance of the type of country contributed to the destroying of the natural environment, which is necessary to the balance of nature. With modern technology the rate of destruction has accelerated, the future is grim indeed if we do not learn from our mistakes. This talk was artistically illustrated by poetry and slides.

ANNUAL MEETING VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB ASSOCIATION.

In the company of Mr Ken McDonald I travelled to Kerang to the Annual meeting of the Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association. The venue was the Kerang Environmental Study Centre which has been developed on the farm named Macropus Park Host Farm, and our hosts were Maureen and George Hardwick (ex Fisheries and Wildlife). This farm is a 200 hectares mixed irrigation property which adjoins the Appin state Forest and Appin Recreation Reserve and also has approximately 4 hectares frontage to the Loddon River. Macropus Park consists of 5 soil types which occur throughout the Kerang district i.e. Wandella Clay, unclassified sandhill, Macorna Clay, Kerang Clay, and Tregowin clay. Flood irrigation is supplied and the objects of the Environmental Study Centre is to demonstrate by precept and example.

1. The value of farming in conjunction with the natural environment.
2. Draw attention to the devastating salinity and environmental problems within the study area.
3. To establish a native tree nursery and to provide educational facilities for students and the general public.

High water tables coupled with poor drainage of used irrigation water have aggravated the salinity problem causing the loss of large areas of natural timber and wildlife habitat. Natural swamps and shallow depressions which were once waterways have been drained, cleared, levelled and cultivated. It was these areas which coupled with the larger swamps, lakes and marshes that produced a habitat where water fowl and wildlife abounded and thousands of acres have been affected by salinity.

On Saturday we first visited Murphy's Swamp which was made by the wind and water from the south west blowing the soil and forming a lunette and from there we visited the three reedy lakes which are part of the irrigation scheme. On one side of the road we had a fresh water lake, Lake Racecourse and the other side was a salt water lake, with just the road dividing the two.

We then visited Kangaroo Lake which is irrigation fed from the Murray (this is getting saline). Lake Kelly is a natural salt lake, and salt has been harvested since the early 1930's but the Water Commission cancelled the licences of Lake Kelly and Lake William in the early 1970's and now uses them for saline water disposed from Lake Tutchewop.

On Sunday we visited a charcoal burner named John Quinn at Horseshoe Lagoon who burns old dried swamp gum, eight tons at a time which makes one ton of charcoal. When the kilns are filled they are lit and left open for 12 hours to burn, then sealed completely airtight for 24 hours to complete the process. The charcoal is then screened and sent to steel works and other uses. Migrants in the early days were given the job by the Forest Commission of cutting the timber for firewood for Melbourne, but with the introduction of gas, the timber was never collected, and it is this timber which is now being processed.

Kangaroo Lake besides being a recreation area is being used for irrigation of vineyards and orange groves, but it is unfortunately becoming saline and is of great concern in the area.

ANNUAL MEETING VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB ASSOCIATION.

contd....

The Kerang Lakes area is classed as the best waterfowl area in the world. In the evenings, slides on the local bird habitat were shown by the Camera Club and Field Naturalist group.

An interesting weekend was enjoyed by both of us.

Jim Wall.

CORRECTIONS

The following is a list of errors noted in the Naturalist by Mrs Thompson. December 1982 Page 1. "Geology at Wilson's Promontory" Row 11 should read Tourmaline not Formaline.

February 1983 Index. "Excursion to Wilson's Promontory" should read Led by Peter Thomas not Peter Turner.

December 1982 Page 2. 26th row should read Feather Bush not Incense Bush and botanical name is Apalochlamys spectabilis.

(Leaves have very pungent odour like Incense Bush and this is how the mistake occurred)

Thankyou Mrs Thompson, but I think the Editor must be a little bit to blame also. Ed.

Members will recall that at the February Meeting Mrs Plant outlined the work being carried out by Mrs T. Lehrmann of Barwon Heads in tending the animals injured in the recent bushfires.

Members instantly responded and a final donation of \$54.00 was forwarded to help in this compassionate work.

It was a wonderful response especially as we had personally already donated to the bushfire appeal.

A Thankyou from the Secretary.

The Warragul F.N.C. lost one of its keen members when Norm Simpson passed away early in February. His many interests included gem stone and rock collecting, botany and fungi and growing native plants and ferns.

The Latrobe Valley F.N.C. will remember Mr Simpson as he attended many of our excursions and campouts over the years.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

LAKE GUTHERIDGE NOTES.

Having a little time to spare on lovely Christmas evenings in Sale I wandered round the lakeside, where dozens of people were taking the air. Never has the lake swamp looked better, with green grassy verges a thick belt of canereeds and young red gums springing in the place of the introduced willows of yesteryear. Reed warblers vied with each other in pouring out floods of melody and amongst the hundreds of common waterfowl driven in by the drought were three Great crested grebes.

While seated on the grass at the water's edge watching a reed warbler shamelessly showing off I became aware of a tiny bird feeding on the floating raft of water ribbons pulled up by the swans. It seemed only the size of a wren, but was a perfect little "waterhen". I spent two evenings with it while it fed fearlessly round my feet. Possibly an immature bird, I decided it was Porzana pusilla, the Marsh Crake. It was a great privilege to be able to watch it at such close quarters.

Ellen Lyndon.

NOTE FROM WEIPA.

1.7.82 - 3 b are well and truly into the dry season now - the fork-tailed kites have been back for some time, and the lovely little white-breasted woodswallows too. They love the telephone wires. I heard the honking of the magpie geese as they flew over at night, on the move again. It was about 4 weeks ago - its a very special sound. The country is dry and dusty again though some species are flowering especially the yellows - Kapok (Cochlospermum gillii) Deplanchea tetraphylla, Acacias - there have been lovely ongoing flavour of them since about april- Acacia platycarpa first with big pale masses of panicles, then Acacia rothii, followed by Acacia crassicaarpa known locally as the Spoon tree because of its pod which the aborigines used as a spoon, and now Acacia torulosa, called thancoupie. The Grevilleas too have been lovely - G. heliosperma (from N.T.) . The earliest, followed by G. glauca (Bushman's Peg) and now Grevillea pteridifolia with its wonderful display of orange combs, and silvery foliage. G. parallela will come on show with its cream candles later. We have a wonderful G. pteridifolia in our back yard which is in full bloom at present - a blaze of orange, more beautiful with the evening light on it, and a favourite spot for the lorikeets and blue-faced honeyeaters and friar birds. There is a shower of orange stigmas lying on the chip bed garden beneath it.

Ann Norton
from a letter to Miss Galbraith.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

1982/83.

Another 12 months have passed and the Club is going very well. Numerous submissions have been made to various bodies and objections to the changing of the status of Morwell National Park also Bulga and Tarra Valley National Parks have been made. Some members attended seminars in Bairnsdale and Churchill for the proposed Latrobe Valley Regional Committee. Meetings have been attended with various ministers regarding the environment and ecology of the Valley.

We have been well represented by members on committees pertaining to the Valleys future. The quality of our speakers, and our attendances both at meetings and excursions were extremely good, also the campout at Baw Baw was a great success. My thanks go to the executive committee for their whole hearted co-operation and to those members who have devoted their time in writing up the meetings and excursions for the magazine.

I must thank members responsible for the publication of the magazine each month. It has been a pleasure working with you all and I hope the team spirit will continue through the coming years, as the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club is well known throughout the Gippsland area. Thank you all for supporting me during my term of office.

J. Hall. President.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1 MARCH 1982 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1983.SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Balance as at 2/3/82 | \$274.43 |
| Bank Interest | \$ 12.38 |
| Donations (including | |
| suppers, Plant sales. | 202.64 |
| Sale of Books | 4.00 |
| Transfer from Pondage | |
| account | 56.94 |
| Sale of Rockpooling | |
| book. | 12.00 |
| Mt Baw Baw Campout | 135.00 |
| Membership Subscriptions | 115.00 |
| Magazine Subscriptions | 516.00 |
| | <u>1053.96</u> |
| | <u>1328.39</u> |

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Naturalist | \$554.40 |
| Petty Cash (Secretary | |
| Publicity) | 99.60 |
| Subscriptions, Donations | 125.00 |
| Hire of Hall | 60.00 |
| Cups for Meetings | 24.15 |
| Bunnerong Ski Lodge | |
| Mt Baw Baw Campout | 100.00 |
| To Mrs H. Rowe (Sale of | |
| Rockpooling Books) | 20.00 |
| Cheque Book & Financial | |
| Institutions Duty | 12.04 |
| | <u>995.19</u> |
| Balance on Hand 2/3/83 | <u>333.20</u> |

1328.39RECONCILED BANK STATEMENT

Balance as at 16/3/83 \$358.20
 Less unrepresented cheque 162965 \$25.00

333.20

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MARCH 23rd. 1983.

The advertised speaker for the March meeting had been unable to attend. a substitute had been found but was not available after all ! several avenues for speaker were tried but to no avail. At last Mrs Brooks said she could give a talk about travels in West Australia. The scheduled excursion was abandoned, but we would join with the Yarram Historical society for an excursion to Seaspray Giffard area. Also an open day for the Thomson Dam area was on Sunday and members could attend this if they wished.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$355.20. Books had been audited in preparation for Annual Meeting.

April Meeting. We would welcome Dr Calder to speak on Mistletoe. The area at Seaton, Heyfield was thought to be not suitable due to the recent fires in the area. The Boola Forest area was thought to be a desirable place to view Mistletoe.

Wilson's Promontory excursion November 5th 6th. Members to make own arrangements for camping, cabins etc. Some people will go for the week and combine a trip with F.N.C.V. who expect to visit the area then. Mr Wall later advised that bookings should not be made before May 2nd. Please ring Mr Wall for further information required.

Secretary advised that flowers had been sent to Mr and Mrs Sterkenburg on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Mr Sterkenburg had sent a card of thanks to the Club for this gesture.

An invitation had been received for a member to attend the annual inspection of the Thomson river Improvement Trust with the Commissioners. Mr Lubcke will attend this function on April 20th.

Rosedale Shire replied to the letter written re the Apple Box tree in the shire. Our request has been noted.

Publications received. Environment Victoria(CCV)
N.T.Newsletter, SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter. Vic Naturalist
World Wildlife Fund Newsletter.
Kerang Environmental Studies Centre information.
Details re Victorian Vascular Plant List available now.
V.F.N.C.A. Meeting will be held at Geelong in October.

Conservation Co-ordinator. Mrs Thompson reported that she had been invited to meet Minister of Conservation when he visited Morwell during March. She had been able to give some thoughts re Morwell National Park. Kinhill Report Brown Coal Development Study. This document will be the subject at a seminar to be held March 24th. Mrs Thompson will present a paper at this seminar. We all heard this paper read and agreed with the thoughts expressed.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday April 20th at the home of Mrs Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster April 22nd.

Mrs Lubcke Mrs Thompson.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB.</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY.</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 3421 29 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O.Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 4582 38 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building Kosciusko St. School. <u>TRARALGON</u> |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 2315 63 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. <u>WARRAGUL</u> |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 5237 92 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE</u> |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, Payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart

P.O.Box 169

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FAMILY \$8.00

SINGLE MEMBERS \$7.00

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS. and should be addressed to

Hon Editor.

Mrs L. Padfield

99 Chamberlain Rd.

NEWBOROUGH 3825

MAY, 1983.

ISSUE No. 233.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist



Protect and enjoy

50c.

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COMING EVENTSWARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING: THURSDAY May 26th.
Please note change in date
SPEAKER: Mr and Mrs Buching
Illustrated talk "Scandinavia"
EXCURSION: Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING: Friday May 27th
SPEAKER: Mr R. Gaulton "Basics of Geology"
EXCURSION: Saturday May 28th Tyers River Gorge
MEETING PLACE: Gunn's Gully at 10.00am

FLOWERS OF SOUTH WEST AUSTRALIA.

Talk by H. Brooks 25/3/83

Mrs Brooks aim in showing her slides of the South West corner of West Australia was to share her holiday with us and to show the diverse flora of the area. Some of the places visited were Esperance, Albany, Cape Leeuwin, the Stirling Ranges and Fitzgerald National Parks. West Australia is bounded by the Indian Ocean on one side and desert on the other. This isolation over millions of years has produced some of the most diverse flora, much of which is found no-where else in the world. Many species have developed in a remarkable way, some entirely confined to a specific area, and limited to a few hectares in some cases. In some areas of the coast the soil is poor and sandy, the extremely strong winds from the ocean often bring heavy rain, while the inland has either sand or stony areas, hot winds and little rain. Plants had to adapt in order to exist and so we often have the same genera growing in both areas but with vastly different characters.

The first slide was of the Kangaroo Paw Anigozanthos manglesii which is the State's Floral Emblem, seen flowering in Kings Park, Perth. It is quite common and grows from the Murchison river in the north to Busselton in the south.

The coastal strip south of Perth is most attractive and interesting from a Naturalist point of view as it has not been developed. Trees that normally grow tall and straight are here very twisted due to the very high winds. There are many wildflowers and orchids growing in profusion.

Orchids of the S.W. corner include the Diuris and Thelymitra families. The Caladenia family has 45 varieties in West Australia. Slides of the cowslip orchid C. flava, Zebra orchid C. cairnsiana, China Blue orchid C. gemmata as well as several Spider Orchids were good examples. A slide of the lovely purple Enamel Orchid Elythranthera brunonis was perfect. The Creeping Hibbertia H. quadricolor has the largest flowers of the family of 64 species.

The Bitter-pea has about 50 varieties which makes identification very hard, but each one has a most attractive flower. Some have been found to be poisonous to cattle but not to native fauna.

A lovely slide of Calytrix was a fine example of the family which has 30 species. These plants mostly grow in the heathlands and vary in colour from white to violet, red, pink and yellow flowers.

Mrs Brooks was very surprised to smell the perfume of the famous West Australian boronia B. megastigma long before she was able to locate the bush.

Banksias are well represented and their diversity and flamboyant colours are one of the wonders of the West. The Scarlet Banksia B. coccinea is common on the coastal plains, but all are breathtakingly lovely. Restricted to the cliffs near Albany Banksia praemorsa has huge purplish flowers and small leaved foliage.

Banksias are usually tall trees but just to be different Banksia petiolaris is prostrate with spreading branches, erect leaves and flower spikes.

FLOWERS OF SOUTH WEST AUSTRALIA

contd...

Quite different from most Banksias, the Holly-leaved Banksia ilicifolia which resembles the Dryandra. Banksia grandis which usually grows over 15 metres tall, but at Cape Leeuwin is low due to the high winds. One plant had many flowers at all stages of growth which was most interesting.

There are 227 Acacias recorded for the country south of Carnarvon. Several slides showing the wide variety of leaves, flowers and form of growth were shown.

South of Cape Naturaliste (well named as there are many flowers growing in the area) are some remarkable caves and rocks showing that severe storms frequent the area. Slides taken in the world famous Jewel Cave at Augusta were most interesting. A stalactite 5.8 metres long and several smaller ones so fragile that a draught might break them were shown. There are about 200 caves in the area but only 4 are open to the public.

The petrified water wheel at Cape Leeuwin is most interesting. This wheel was once used to supply the light house with water but has been covered with limestone as the result of years of water flowing over it.

In the rain soaked region of Walpole in lower S.W. the Karri Eucalyptus diversicolor forests grow. These giant trees grow to over 90 metres, towering over Banksias, wattles etc. The famous Gloucester tree is a Karri.

Victoria has about 12 different Droseras but W.A. has at least 34 listed. Several slides of these were shown. Pink Petticoats Polypompholyx multifida which are related to our Fairies Aprons Utricularia dichotoma and the famous W.A. Pitcher Plant were interesting. All these Droseras. Bladderworts and Pitcher Plants are carnivorous plants.

Near Pemberton is a magnificent Karri Forest. Australia is said to have 5% of its land in forest, but W.A. has a very small area of timber, much of it being destroyed by man and the dieback disease. 1.6 hectares of Giant Karri has been reserved for future generations to see what magnificent trees they are.

The Stirling Range National Park is just 64 Km inland from the South coast and has some 1000 species of native plants, 100 of which are unique to the range. Some grow only on specific peaks, making the area one of the world's most outstanding botanical reserves.

Because the range is so near the coast and rises so suddenly from the flat plains the taller peaks are shrouded in clouds for a few hours almost every day of the year. Mrs Brooks slides of the ranges showed the mist covered high peaks and the vegetation on the peaks as heathland type which is dense and harsh. The range has many solid masses of

sandstone and quartzite outcrops which make the climb to the top quite a feat. The constant cloud cover has created a much cooler, moister environment than the surrounding areas. This has permitted the evolution or survival of plants now found only on the tops of the peaks.

Some plants like the Darwinias are confined to a small area of the highest peaks, grow nowhere else in the world. A slide of Darwinia leiostyla was a good example of the species.

The Showy Dryandra D. formosa is one of the most spectacular flowers and grows in profusion on the slopes of Bluff Knoll. There are 12 Dryandra species growing from the Stirling Ranges to Esperance.

FLOWERS OF SOUTH WEST AUSTRALIA contd...

There are 150 species of Eucalypt in W.A. and 27 of those grow in the Ranges. A good slide of the Bell-fruited Mallee was shown.

Banksia coccinea are most interesting and spectacular in the valley.

The Grass trees are most attractive in the evening light.

The colours of Leschenaultias are always brilliant, especially the red ones. These plants usually grow in red sandy soil or gravel in ever widening circles, looking like wreaths.

Isopogon latifolium one of the 25 species of the west grows well on Bluff Knoll, the highest peak in the Stirling Ranges.

The Stirling Ranges Smokebush Conospermum dorrienii is one of the 27 species found in the South West, but there are 40 species in all.

The Stirling Ranges Bottlebrush Bauhinia heterophylla is one of 17 species all endemic to the South West and all seem to favour very harsh conditions.

South of Ravensthorpe the plants live in a world of their own, many being endemic to that area, so a visit to the Fitzgerald National Park, in the Barren Ranges is a must. A beautiful slide of Calothamnus was shown, illustrating the feather like flowers to advantage.

The Scarlet Regelia R. velutina, a native of these slopes is much like a molaleuca. There are 15 species of Banksia in the area, with B. quercifolia confined to the Barren and Stirling Ranges. Banksia lehmanniana has flowers hanging down like pendants.

The catspaw related to the Kangaroo paw are most attractive in this park. It is amazing that so many plants are growing well in such harsh conditions so close to the sea.

One of the strangest plants in the area is the Royal Makea H. victoriae with insignificant flowers compared to the large shell-shaped leaves.

As the leaves get older they become variegated.

Over 600 plant species grow in the Barren Ranges which are endemic to the area, many of these restricted to the peaks.

We were shown Peak Charles, a mountain difficult to climb and progress was slow especially with a gusty side wind blowing. Jack made it to the top and found a natural garden and took some slides of the surrounding countryside. One view showed the caravan as a small dot in the distance. The last slide of the evening was taken of the peak in early morning light and was really beautiful.

All Mrs Brooks slides were outstanding and her commentary describing some of the species and variations was fascinating.

Iris Peterson.

Another error has been pointed out to us. In the April issue Page 2 last par, should read "The magnificent Mountain grey gum, E. cypellocarpa on Mary Austin's uncle's farm " etc... (Not red gum)
The botanical name is right.

sorry Ed.

MERRIMANS CREEK EXCURSION

26/3/83

Unfortunately all our arrangements for March meeting and excursion seemed to be upset by one minor problem after another and so it was that we ended up joining the Traralgon Historical Excursion for our excursion on March 26th 1983

Traralgon Historical Society had been invited to join the Yarram Historical Society on a tour of properties involved in the early settlement of Merrimans Creek.

Meeting at the Traralgon High School we turned towards Gormandale, then heading in an easterly direction followed the Merrimans Creek to Stradbroke. Passing Killung and travelling along the Stradbroke Road for about 12 km we paused to look at the huge Applebox tree at Applebox corner. Don Thompson gave us a talk on the Applebox tree. You will remember that our Club was instrumental in having this tree placed on the National Register of Significant Trees. A local identity whose forebear came to live in the district in the 1880's relates that the applebox tree was as large then, as it appears at present. When authorities decided to farm the road property, a bullock team was engaged to remove the tree, but was unsuccessful, the tree was not going to budge and so it was decided that the road should go around the tree.

Moving on to "The Meadows" we were joined by Mr John Irving and members of the Yarram Society and joined by members of the Sale Historical Society.

"The Meadows" composed of a run of 24 square Km and ran along the South side of Merrimans Creek property being secured in 1843. Mr Irving related a rough history of the Meadows assisted by Mr Fischer a resident who could remember the many buildings that were on the property when he was a child. During the 1850's there was also a hotel on this property known as Merrimans Creek Hotel.

Leaving the Meadows which is situated on the Sth Gippsland Highway near the bridge crossing Merrimans Creek, we moved across the paddocks to what was originally Stradbroke township, but now grazing land. As we drew to a halt, field naturalists in the party were delighted to see a 1.5 metre red bellied black snake making its way across the paddock and down to the creek.

A hotel called "The Travellers Rest" was built here, right on the edge of Merrimans Creek where the road crossed swampy land. Looking to the far side of the creek, we could see the remains of the link up road. This road was a direct route to the Omeo diggings and at Stradbroke, good stockyards, stables and paddocks were available to travellers - not one vestige remaining today.

On the opposite side of the creek is a property called Erinvale. Wending our way back to the Sth Gippsland Highway and after crossing Merrimans Creek we turned right again entering private property, we made our way to Erin Vale a substantial brick home of a past era at present undergoing restoration. This was the home at one time of the Montgomery family. It was good to see the paddocks showing a glint of green helping to relieve the depressing dryness of the drought conditions.

MERRIMANS CREEK EXCURSION

contd...

By now it was time to call a halt for lunch and so on to Seaspray where Merrimans Creek enters the sea. Some ate lunch, some paddled in the water, others enjoyed walking along the beach, hoping to find a shell or two, or maybe a nice cuttle fish for the budgie! before assembling and moving on to "Coadys" or as it was known from 1870 Prospect. Coady Buckley was born in a London Prison and travelled to Australia with his mother in 1818 and took up this run on Merrimans Creek known as Oat Ba and grew wheat and threshed it here using aborigines for labor. What was left of the village is being bulldozed down at present and said one of our eminent members, "that heap of rubble is all that is left of the home I was born in" - guess who! Mrs Ellen Lyndon no less. The land is all under subdivision and as we walked across the paddocks to inspect a lonely grave Mrs M. Ricketts 17/8/1870 another well known member gathered a breakfast of mushrooms.

Winding our way around to a further reach in the creek, where water was just starting to run following the flood rains which fell in the Gormandale hills several days ago, we arrived at Giffard township allotments. In 1854/55 there was actually only one home in the township according to the Police of the day, but there was a continual traffic of bullock drays camping there as they went to and fro on their way to the Onco diggings. In 1862 there was a huge flood and the bridge over Merrimans Creek was washed away - now only a few bricks remain to prove that a building was in existence at one time.

The afternoon was drawing to a close and after thanking our hosts for an enjoyable day we wended our way homewards.

Merrimans Creek is thought to have been named after a bullock of McAlisters which was lost there.

Pearl Reeves.

BIRD NOTES FROM WEIPA.

We went on to the plains and what a treat it was. Mums first sighting of Brolgas, geese galore, pratincoles, large flocks of Red-tailed Black cockatoos feeding on the ground.

This morning we have been down to the lily lagoons to see the water lilies and lotus birds and green pygmy geese, and more Magpie geese. Also a Varied Triller in one of the native figs - not one I have seen often, along with the yellow fig birds.

Ann Morton.

from a letter to Miss Jean Galbraith.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 20th 1983.

Traralgon Council have been written a letter expressing disappointment that the proposed Botanical Park has been cancelled. We hope that this project will go ahead at a later date.

Mrs Lehrmann has thanked our Club for the donation to assist the injured animals. The letter to be read out at the General meeting.

World Environment Day. The secretary had contacted other Clubs in the area re any ideas for the day. It seems that nothing has been planned as yet.

Mr Lubcke reported that he had toured with the Commissioners of the Latrobe and Thomson River improvement trusts. These bodies are working together in an effort to improve both rivers. Tree planting, Grass sown and areas fenced from cattle also major earth works have been undertaken. This was a most interesting and informative day.

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Mrs Thompson reported that the seminar re Brown Coal Development had been held. Mrs Thompson had presented a paper to the seminar, and was well received. Most groups felt that the report concentrated on coal regardless of other considerations. There should be more concern for the people and the environment.

Mrs Thompson was interviewed by 3 GI re her comments.

Suggested that the Club present a written submission based on comments made but going into more detail.

National Parks Association had visited the Alpine area and have requested that we forward submissions regarding the area to the L.C.C.

It is thought that the number of submissions presented will be an important factor in deciding further recommendations.

The next business meeting will be held at the home of Miss Galbraith on Wednesday May 25th at 7.30 pm.

Any interested members are welcome at these meetings.

Supper Roster May 27th. Mrs PLant Mrs LARson

MISTLETOE BIRDS.

Easter is a time for visitors and this year we had a visit from the Mistletoe Birds. We have never seen them before in our garden although we have caught glimpses of them in the tree tops in the reserve nearby, where Mistletoe grows.

We first saw the male bird at the bird bath. We wondered what was attracting them to our garden as we have no Mistletoe. The Reader's Digest 'Complete Book of Australian Birds' states that these birds also feed on Pepper Trees and other trees. We had already commented on the fact that the little birds were much more interested in the Pepper Trees this year, especially the Silver Eyes. We are used to the larger birds feeding in these trees. As there are still some figs on the tree in the garden we feel figs and peppercorns must make an unusual diet; but perhaps there are many small insects amongst the pepper corns. Still the male and female Mistletoe Birds happily joined the other birds in the Pepper Trees.

Bon Thompson.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB.</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY.</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 3421 29 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>NOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O. Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 4582 38 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGONE F.N.C.</u> | | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building Kosciusko St. School. <u>TRARALGON</u> |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 2315 63 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. <u>WARRAGUL</u> |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 5237 92 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE</u> |

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, Payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 169
NEWBOROUGH 3825

NATURALIST \$6.00

FAMILY \$8.00

SINGLE MEMBERS \$7.00

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Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS. and should be addressed to

Hon Editor.

Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825

JUNE, 1983.

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Protect and enjoy

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WARRAGUL F.N.C.

MEETING:

FRIDAY JUNE 17th

Hancy and Jack Brooks

"Chillagoe Caves, Carnarvon Gorge
National Parks"

EXCURSION:

Sunday June 19th

Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

MEETING:

FRIDAY JUNE 24th

SPEAKERS:

Mrs Lyndon, Mrs Thompson, J. Brooks

"Forest Gullies in Winter"

EXCURSION:

SATURDAY JUNE 25th

At North State Park.

MEETING PLACE

Darnum at 10.00 am.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

MEETING:

FRIDAY JUNE 1st

to be arranged.

EXCURSION:

SUNDAY JULY 3rd.

Tour of Hillend area to be arranged
by B. Ingram.

V.F.N.C.A.

SPRINGTIME GET- TOGETHER OF ALL CLUBS

OCTOBER 8th 9th 1983.

At Ocean Grove Hotel (and Hotel Caravan Park)

64 Wallington Road Ocean Grove. (052 551 255)

Host Club - Geelong.

Sec. Mrs V. Dedman, 68 North Valley Rd. Highton 3216

Contact Marie Allender for Hotel information. 03 527 2740.

Excursions being planned and social evening Saturday night.

EXCURSION TO THOMSON DAM

27/3/83

Four cars with 12 members arrived at Rawson at 9.45 am and the inspection of the dam site commenced. After the film, the first inspection site was at the saddle dam embankment which is approx. 15 metres from completion. Other inspection sites included the Rock Quarry providing the materials for the dam wall; the outlet towers - part of the outlet systems for releases of water downstream; the top of the main dam embankment which is approx. 4 chain wide and over which we drove; and the spillway which will allow excess water to spill into the river below when the dam is full. It is expected to start collecting water in the dam this year. We were pleased to hear that the temperature of the water released downstream is adjusted to suit the fish by drawing the water off at different levels in the dam. We were also surprised to see the regrowth on areas that must have been cleared and which were rocky and steep. The Sunshine Wattle was in bloom within the dam site; but only in bud above the dam level where the bush had not been disturbed. A Pippit was hopping around some small buildings.

We had lunch at a picnic site overlooking the area.

As the day was pleasant and it was early in the afternoon, it was decided to continue up to the car park at Mt St Gwinea. From there we walked up the track towards the mount; but found so much to look at that we ran out of time and had to return without reaching the top.

There were a number of ferns including the Alpine Water-fern, Mother Shield-fern, Hard Water-fern and one that created discussion - perhaps the Shiny Shield-fern. A Willowherb still managed to produce one mauve flower and the Downy Cascade Everlasting had a second lease of life as it had produced some fresh flowers on the tips of the branches after the recent rain although the bulk of the flowers were finished. The Baw Daw Berry did not have any berries - too late in the season - but the Tasman Flax-lily compensated by producing beautiful bunches of large purple berries. There was a small Beech Tree about 5 metres high, certainly on the edge of a small streamlet but not in the gully at this height. The photographers were down on their stomachs trying to get slides of the Clubmoss with its fresh clubs. If you flipped the club you could see the spores dispersing. Of course the eucalypts also created discussion but the Shining Gum and the Tingaringy Gum were easily separated by the shape of the juvenile leaves and of course the fruits. Both these gums have blue juvenile leaves which looked attractive amongst the more sombre dark green foliage of the other plants at this time of the year.

At 5.30 pm we all headed home after an interesting day.

Bon Thompson.

WISHFUL THINKING. or
How We Can Fool Ourselves.

Some years ago I can recall a fellow member of F.H.C. inviting me to inspect the lovely wild cherry she had grown by the front door. It was as high as the house and a fine specimen and she was naturally proud of it. I took one look and saw it was a casuarina. She saw by my face that something was seriously wrong but how could I tell her when she so obviously cherished the lovely little tree. The wheel has turned full circle.

One of my park ballarts is covered with large brown galls, as so many cherries are. Healthy green shoots grow from these so I brought a few home and planted them at the foot of what I hoped would be a host tree, the Cherry Ballart being partly parasitic on the roots of other trees. In due course a nice green shoot lengthened and increased and I saw I had a nice tree developing. It was pampered and drooled over. I thought I had stumbled on the art of growing these difficult trees. It was necessary to transplant it and when it was about 63 cm in height I carefully uncovered its roots, but was puzzled at finding no connection whatever with its companion tree. It was carefully lifted into a bucket of soil and grew on with renewed vigour. Several friends inspected it casually, until one day a wretched fellow who is a keen native gardener came along, and looked a bit harder than the rest of us. He said " Er, Um, dont you think it is a casuarina, Ellen? " and I saw instantly that it was, and wondered how i could have been so blind for so long. He really spoiled my day ! The chances are that when I was collecting the galls I threw a few she-oak cones into the same bag with them, and a stray seed did the rest.

Ellen Lyndon.

THE MYSTERY OF THE RINGTAILS!

During the very hot dry weather in February we observed a ringtail possum hopping slowly around the lawn in mid-afternoon rather after the fashion of a rabbit suffering from myxomatosis.

A couple of days later we found the possum dead on the grass and this sequence was repeated twice more over the next week or so.

Examination of the bodies did not reveal any obvious cause of death or any evidence of symptoms similar to myxomatosis.

Mentioning this occurrence to friends, we were surprised to learn that identical incidents had been noted by neighbours at Coalville and also at Yallourn North and Yinnar.

In each case ample fresh water was available so thirst would not have been a factor. Is there a particular infection affecting the ring-tails or is it possible that in such a particularly dry season when the trees are so highly stressed that certain leaves or parts of their diets may have become toxic ?

Whatever the cause, it seems to have only been the ringtail possums involved and although silver greys are numerous they seem to be immune.

Do any of our readers have an answer to the mystery ?

Andy Ringin.

"MISTLETOES"

Talk by Dr D.M. Calder 22/4/83

Dr Calder's excellent lecture was accompanied by colour slides which perfectly illustrated the many features mentioned.

Mistletoes are rootless shrubs which grow as semi-parasites on trees and other shrubs. They are classed as semi parasites - being dependent on their hosts for supplies of water and mineral nutrients but through their own green "Chlorophyllous" leaves synthesize all necessary organic materials.

Mistletoes have for centuries puzzled and intrigued the people of northern Europe. The Druids of pre-Roman Britain venerated the Oak as the paramount symbol of strength and stability. Mistletoes lived without roots on the mighty oaks, remained spectacularly green when whole forests shed their leaves and furthermore produced their crops of white translucent berries throughout the middle of winter.

Clearly such plants must have special strengths and powers and they were used as promoters of fertility and sexual performance.

Mistletoes are true flowering plants. Many have spectacular red flowers and secrete copious quantities of nectar to attract and effect cross pollination by birds. Honeyeaters are the main cross pollinating agents. Mistletoes flowering and fruiting throughout the year are very important food sources for these birds.

Most Mistletoes of the genus *Amyema* - commonest in Victoria - have very long flowering periods. *A. pendulum* at Healesville flowering from May through to the following February! *A. linophyllum* (Buloke Mistletoe) has the shortest flowering period - from December to February.

The *Amyema* have large, tubular flowers, produce nectar and open slowly. Pollen is shed just before the flowers open but the stigma does not become receptive for some days. Honeyeaters seeking nectar collect pollen on cheek and crown feathers which is then brushed off on the receptive stigmas of other flowers to effect cross pollination.

Some species *A. pendulum* and *A. miraculosum* are completely self incompatible. An exception is the Grey Mistletoe *A. quandang* - which is the most self fertile of the genus.

Hybridisation to produce sterile mules is a rare event. eg. at Healesville where *A. quandang* has crossed with *A. pendulum* as the pollen donor.

Mistletoe fruit are berries having tough outer skins holding balls of sweet, thick gum in which is suspended the embryo or seed.

The berries are eaten avidly by birds especially the Mistletoe Bird

Dicaeum hirundinaceum, which is the most important seed distributor.

Truly remarkable adaptations to this birds digestive system - a gizzard bypass valve - and its behaviour - squats on branches to defecate - ensures that the mistletoes seeds are deposited to stick on branches suitable for penetration. the bird dropping also constitutes a moisture retaining and highly nutritive micro environment.

Germination of the mistletoe seed starts immediately the outer skin is broken to admit oxygen. The first shoot emerges to become an expanding stick fast as soon as it touches any solid surface.

Inner tissues of this shoot develop as sinkers which penetrate to tap the hosts sap conducting systems below the bark.

contd....pp

MISTLETOES.

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Once an effective sap supply is secured on a compatible host, mistletoe and host tissue grow, interleaved to form a swelling "Haustorium". The mistletoe then takes over the the whole sap supply for the branch, the outer end of which dies. In the Creeping Mistletoe *Muellerina eucalyptoides* root like runners grow along the host branch sending down sinkers to form haustoria at frequent intervals. The runners also develop leafy shoots so that the host branch is surrounded by a leafy sleeve.

Young mistletoes mature to produce flowers and fruit from about the 3rd year and plants may live for several decades.

Distribution: Some 1200 occur world wide and about 60 in Australia. Most species are in northern areas, there being only 12 in Victoria. Strangely there are none in Tasmania but several in New Zealand. There are 2 major families - The Viscaceae - represented by the English and our Golden and Jointed Mistletoes. Most Victorian (and Australian) species belong to the Loranthaceae as in the table below.

VICTORIAN MISTLETOES A. loranthaceae,

| <u>NAMES</u> | <u>HOSTS</u> | <u>STATUS</u> |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Creeping Mistletoe <i>Muellerina eucalyptoides</i> | Eucalypts & other natives Elm, Plane, Birch, Oaks | Could be a problem |
| 2. Coast Mistletoe <i>Muellerina celastroides</i> | Saw Banksias and some other coastal plants | Not aggressive |
| 3. Wire Leaf Mistletoe <i>Amyema preisii</i> | Mainly Acacia but recorded on Cassia sp. | Could be a local problem |
| 4. Buloke Mistletoe <i>Amyema linophyllum</i> | Exclusively Casuarina | At most a local problem |
| 5. Grey Mistletoe <i>Amyema quandang</i> | Exclusively Acacia | A serious problem parasite of Acacia |
| 6. Fleshy Mistletoe <i>Amyema miraculosum</i> | Santalum, Myoporum Casuarina, other Mistletoes. | Highly abundant not an aggressive parasite. |
| 7. Drooping Mistletoe <i>Amyema pendulum</i> | Mostly Eucalypts Sometimes Acacias | Serious where heavy infestations occur. |
| 8. Box Mistletoe <i>Amyema niquelli</i> | Usually Euc. of the Box Group also Acacia | Serious where heavy infestations occur. |
| 9. Harlequin Mistletoe <i>Lysiana exocarpi</i> | Wide range in Drier areas. Casuarina other Mistletoes | Not a problem |
| 10. Long Flowered Mistletoe <i>Dendrophthoe vitellina</i> | Wide range within the Myrtaceae | Not a Victorian problem |
| 11. Jointed Mistletoe <i>Korthalsella japonica</i> | In Victoria confined to Lilly Pilly | perhaps an endangered sp. |
| 12. Golden Mistletoe <i>Notothixos subaureus</i> | Restricted to other mistletoes | A rare plant in Victoria. |

MISTLETOES.

contd...

EFFECTS ON HOST TREES.

There are no signs of any returns to the hosts and no known toxic effects. There is a reduction of leaf area in affected crowns as the outer ends of the host branches are killed off and there appears to be preferential supply of water and mineral nutrients to the parasite at the expense of the host plant. The result is progressive debilitation of the host trees which eventually die when stressed by droughts or other pathogens.

ECOLOGY OF MISTLETOES.

Mistletoes seem to be most common in open situations, drier areas, along road and rail reserves, isolated trees on farms and in country towns. In intact or ecologically balanced forests mistletoes are not common. Logging, fire grazing, severe insect defoliations or other factors which lead to disturbance of the forest encourage the proliferation of mistletoes.

CONTROL.

Is best effected by cutting off affected branches. An operation so costly in labour is only practical in areas of very high landscape value. Eg. Gardens, Parks and high usage recreation areas.

The use of 2-4D herbicide is effective in time - 2 years - on mistletoes but rather unpredictable on the hosts, which can also be killed.

CONSERVATION.

Mistletoes are a natural and biologically intriguing part of our natural heritage and should be conserved to fulfill their ecological role, adding interest and diversity to our floral and avifaunal environments.

Ian McDonald.

PINHEADS.

Our tiniest toadstool has a fragile, almost transparent, cap only 3 mm across, on a threadlike 50 mm stalk.

It usually appears after the first good autumn rain. This year there were a few mushrooms after we had 19 points of rain on March 8th but it was the next rain, 4 inches, on March 20th, 21st that brought up the pinheads (Mycena subcapillaris). A clump of them looks like a tangle of white cotton with knots here and there, but if you look closely you will see that each "knot" is an exquisitely fluted, nearly translucent cap 3mm across.

Pinheads shrivel quickly in the sunshine. One must look at them as soon as possible after they appear. The rain that brings them up, if prolonged, will also break the minute white caps.

Jean Galbraith.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MAY 25th 1983.

World Environment Day. Othe Clubs were contacted, but no specific arrangements were made for the day. Decided that a few people put in a lot of effort for not much result. On that basis we would not do anything special this year. We are concerned with the environment all the year.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$607-50.

Australia Post requested \$20.00 for registration of L.V.Naturalist.

Mr Gaulton advised that area to be visited would not be suitable due to the heavy rains. Excursion would be to Trafalgar Quarry where there are fossils etc...Meeting place to be the same.

Advised of films available from Morwell Library.

V.F.N.C.A. advised re the Springtime Get-together at Ocean Grove Oct. 3-9

Further details in this issue and from Secretary.

Publications received.

Roadside Conservation Booklet N.T.Naturalist
C.C.V. Newsletter Geelong Naturalist

SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter

World Wildlife fund Newsletter W.W.F. Conservation Programme

Australian Environment Council Newsletter.

Unfinancial Members. If you have not paid your annual subscription note will be enclosed in this Naturalist. Fees were due in March 1983.

National Parks Office requested copies of L.V.Naturalist.

President to contact that office re arrangements.

CONSERVATION CO ORDINATOR.

Mrs Thompson reported that a submission had been sent to Victorian Brown Coal Council.

Reports received from:

Morwell River Diversion Strategy Plan. (S.E.C.)

Western Coalfield Overburden Disposal. (S.E.C.)

Submissions to be sent regarding these reports.

All Club Submissions are available for members to read at any time.

Supper Roster June 24th. Mr and Mrs Ringin

Next Committee Meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Reeves, Whitakers Road Traralgon on Wednesday June 22nd at 7.30 pm.

A RECENT PLANT DISCOVERY.

The Privet mock-olive, *Notelaea ligustrina*, was noticed at Easter growing beside a creek on private property at Cape Liptrap. We usually find this small handsome tree rare enough in the hill country, so it was a surprise to find it in coastal sands among creek flora.

E. Lyndon.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

CLUB.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

HON. SECRETARY.

Mrs I. Peterson
14 Barry Street,
Morwell 3840
'phone 3421 29

MEETINGS.

7.30pm. on 4th Friday
each month, at
Regional Education
Centre, Kirk St. MOE

SALE F.N.C.

Mr Maclean
P.O. Box 302
SALE 3850
'phone 4582 38

8.00pm on 1st Friday
each month, room 13
Continuing Education
Centre, Raymond Street
SALE

TRARALGONE F.N.C.

8.00pm. on 1st Friday
each month, at L.V.
Education Building
Kosciusko St. School.
TRARALGON

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Mr J. Brooks
3 Nobel Street
WARRAGUL 3820
'phone 231 563

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
Public Library.
WARRAGUL

BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.

Mr E.V. Barton
13 Turnbull Street
BAIRNSDALE 3875
'phone 5237 92

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
C.W.A. Hall
BAIRNSDALE

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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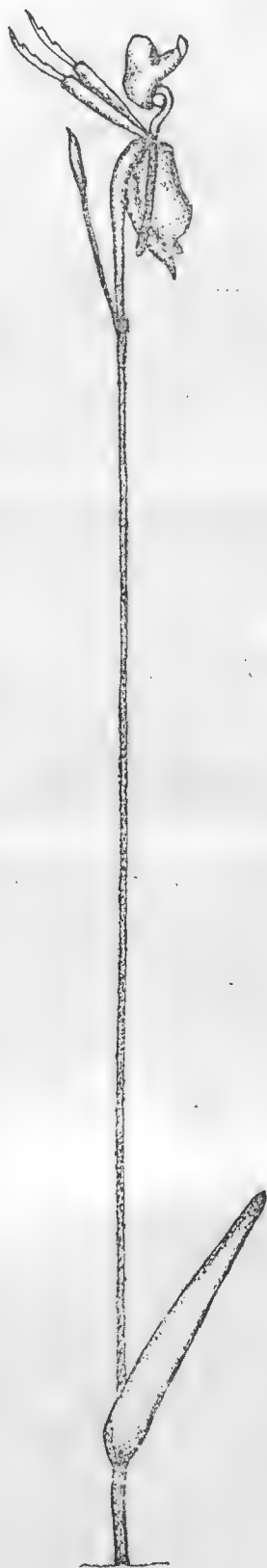
Hon Editor.

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COMING EVENTS.WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting

Friday July 15th

Mrs A. Parris Illustrated talk
English Welsh Garden

Excursion

Sunday 31st July

Meeting Place

Civic Centre Carpark 9.00am

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting

Friday July 22nd

Speaker

Mr Messington Blue Rock Dam

Excursion

Saturday July 23rd to Dam and
Old Tanjil township

Meeting Place

Blue Rock Dam at 10.00 am

TRARALGON F.N.C.

Meeting

Friday August 5th

Speaker

S.E.C. Consultant Biologist
"Fish in Latrobe River"

V.F.N.C.A.

Springtime Get-together

October 8th, 9th

Ocean Grove Hotel and Caravan Park.

Hotel information from Marie Allender 05 527 2749

MISTLETOE.Excursion to Doola Boola Forest with Dr Calder 23/4/83.

Twelve cars assembled at Tyers for the excursion. We travelled along Fitzgibbon's Road, crossing Rintoull's Creek on a bridge which may have been damaged by the last floods, but it was quite safe.

Along the road we stopped to study a drooping mistletoe Anyema pendulum. Trees in the area seemed to be hosts to one or up to 15 mistletoes.

The more infected trees were either growing on the roadsides or along the dividing fence lines, where they had plenty of light for germination to take place. Several badly infected trees had died, however Dr Calder felt that the mistletoes would not have killed them, but would have starved the tree of water and nutrients over several years, weakening them to such an extent that they were unable to withstand the added stress of the recent severe drought. It seemed a pity the trees couldn't have held out for a longer time as we have had heavy rains lately.

However several other trees just starting to flounder under the stress would be saved by the rains. Dr Calder identified the mistletoe on a Blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon) and Manna Gum (Euc.viminalis) as being A. pendulum one of the common mistletoes. The flowers were yellow-green with a brownish tinge. The flowers grow in sets of three with the centre one not having a flower stalk. Dr Calder broke off a dead mistletoe at the point of contact with a tree to show the long fibres of the Eucalypt and the short, brittle fibres of the mistletoe interwoven. Just near these dying trees was a healthy lessmate (Euc.obliqua) with lots of nuts and not one mistletoe!

A little further along a Eucalypt of the Box group had the Box Mistletoe (Anyema miquelii) hanging from a branch, much like A. pendulum but these flowers were bright red, in the same set of three but all flowers having stalks. The flowering time for both these species of mistletoe overlap so the birds have a good supply of nectar and fruits for quite a few months.

Walking back to the cars we saw many discarded pupa cases of the Goat Moth family Lepidoptera. This species, when at the larvae stage is very often the victim of the fungi Cordiceps and in days gone by were eagerly hunted for and eaten by the Aborigines.

We then continued along the Walhalla Road, where growing low on the trunk of a Yertchuk (Euc. considoniana) was the Creeping Mistletoe Muellerina eucalyptoides. This third mistletoe produces "creeping roots" which send secondary haustoria into the host. The leaves often resemble the host Eucalypt leaves. This is summer flowering and on this one the fruits were developing, but it would be 3-4 weeks before they would be ripe and sticky.

Over the road was a Dodder Laurel which has the same life style (is a parasite). However it starts by having a root system but when the tangled, leafless stems have been able to "tap into" a host plant in order to obtain water and nutrients there is no further need for their roots so they wither and die and the plant becomes truly parasitic.

MISTLETOE

contd..

Lunch was very pleasant at the Moondarra Dam with the New Holland Honeyeaters and Eastern Spinebills fluttering in the planted flowering eucalypts. A short walk through the nature reserve was enjoyed by all. Several fungi, all shapes and colours were found. Banksia spinulosa was in full bloom and several stalks of common heath Epacris impressa made a dash of colour.

We followed the Tyers Gorge which is a very pretty area. Mr Ian McDonald, a foundation member of the Wipilda Committee gave a brief outline of the efforts of the Committee over the past years in having the area proclaimed a National Park. However the L.C.C. have recommended that the area in question be increased to include Peterson's Lookout and the reserve be known as the Tyers Regional Park.

The quietness and beauty of the area made it hard to believe that the S.E.C. A.P.M. and other industries were just over the hill. On looking across the river to Jim's Cairn I once admired the siting, as well as the actual cairn itself and once again felt it to be a wonderful tribute to Jim made by members of our Club and a gesture my family and I will always treasure.

Our day ended on top of that steep hill, with rain about to fall, but even that didn't stop us from still talking- someone suggested that we were "Chattering Naturalists" rather than "Field Naturalists" !!

Thanks must go to Dr Calder who identified and explained the differences in the mistletoes. We all felt we had a marvellous day particularly as we had seen 3 of the 12 mistletoes that grow in Victoria, so we had identified a quarter of the species of mistletoe for all Victoria.

Iris Peterson.

NOTE FROM WEIPA.

Friday October 1st. Again despite the dryness, there is that springtime flush about, with the fully deciduous trees putting on their new cloak of green, and the fully deciduous such as Erythrina versatilis and Bombax flowering before they burst into leaf. New shoots are appearing in the garden and in the bush, and many birds are active and seeming to make preparations for mating. The little Sunbird of course have young in nests already - they never seem to stop breeding. The third and final field survey for the fauna study in regeneration was completed last week. There were some interesting surprises and differences from the other wetter periods. The numbers of frogs and reptiles were far fewer than in wet times as would be expected. We caught several Planigale maculata - delightful tiny marsupial carnivores - all male for some reason. The females must be smarter or shyer or far less numerous - they were all caught in pitfall traps. Also found 3 little delicate mice (Pseudomys delicatulus) which were not found in December or April. Peter had one site in a patch of unmined forest of a few hectares rather like an island bounded by railway line, haul roads and civil road and regenerated pine, with a long narrow corridor to more uncleared forest.

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NOTE FROM WEIPA.

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It was astonishing how much life was in it- he found 9 brush-tail possums including two young ones in that one area, and we imagine they must be living there. There are a lot of old hollow trees. And there were nests galore, more than twenty of Friar Birds, babblers, cuckoo-shrikes, Rainbow Lorikeets - they would be feeding out in the regeneration as well as the native forest, but it really seemed to be high density living.

Ann Morton.

from a letter to Miss Galbraith.

THE KING PARROTS ARE BACK IN MOE.

During the winter and spring of 1982 we were visited in Moe by flocks of King Parrots. No doubt driven from their normal areas in the hills to our north by the hard winter and perhaps also due to some loss of habitat. They were seen around the town in considerable numbers from the beginning of winter to early summer.

Although quite common in the forest country, we rarely see them in our town environs, so were delighted to count a flock of 25 looking rather like large red and green flowers on the bare branches of a Liquid Amber tree in our back yard.

As far as we could see, they seemed to have a liking for the buds on the liq'id ambar in addition to the acorns on an oak in a neighbours garden.

This year they are back again a little earlier. The firstcomers arriving just after Easter. So far they seem to be in smaller numbers than last year. It will be interesting to see if this visitation becomes an annual event, perhaps as Judith Wright says "

"Parrots, when the winter dwindles
Their forest fruits and seeds, remember

This year again they seem to be enjoying the acorns, and, while they last the late apples still on the trees. Of course the apples won't last long, but if we may slightly misquote Judith Wright

"To see them cling and sip and sway
apples are no great price to pay"

ANDY RINGIN.

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B.O.C. CAMP AT CAPE LIPTRAP.

The Easter campout of the Bird Observers Club was held on a big private property, a host farm, at Cape Liptrap. During the time, Wednesday to Wednesday, about 130 members set up their tents and vans in a sheltered valley well in from the main road and about halfway between road and beach. With the extensive clearing of properties on the Cape there are now wide sea views on each side of the road to the Lighthouse and roadside flora is fast vanishing. The whole country had greened up after the recent rains and looked its best, no dust, no mosquitoes!!.

A small creek encircled the camp, fairly well vegetated, but the drought had allowed the sheep dry footing to gobble everything within reach of their hungry mouths. Apparently the Tender Brake Fern is unpalatable to sheep for this is the main survivor under the tall and ancient teatrees. Rapanea, the Muttonwood, is plentiful in these western Liptrap gullies as a small tree. A level central space was raked out among the camps and an immense fire pit filled with dry wood each day for the evening get-together and bird count. Campers converged on this from all directions after tea, lugging their rugs and folding chairs, to fry their fronts and cool their backs. From a distance the great circle of heads silhouetted against the leaping flames and sparks called to mind a bygone era when the local blacks must have gathered together for one of their great corroborees. On Sunday night entertainment was organised for the many children in camp and some clever nimes kept the audience busy guessing bird names.

People were free to do their own thing and came and went as their holiday time permitted. Some set up house with all comforts and sat on their verandahs in the sun reading, knitting, painting or entertaining visitors.. Small excursions left each morning for different bird areas.

Parties walked the beach or along the creek trails where kangaroos might be met with. We, the locals, the Brewsters and myself, acted as guides and showed off our local sanctuaries and wetlands. The birds co-operated splendidly, Emu wrens, Beautiful firetails, Cape Barren geese and even a pair of Noisy friar birds were listed. Altogether 128 species were recorded over an area from Point Smythe to Sandy Point. The weather was mild and pleasant until almost the last day when it turned very nasty indeed and caused most campers to beat a hasty retreat. But we who left on Monday missed this after a most enjoyable weekend.

Ellen Lyndon.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS

We have decided to reprint these articles published in the Naturalist in 1966. They were written by Mr Bob Auchterlonie, a dedicated Field Naturalist and friend of our Club. This issue commences these articles. Some of the newer members should find these articles of great interest as they refer to the Latrobe Valley Eucalypts only.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 22nd 1983.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$683.51.

Arrangements for excursion to Blue Rock Dam finalised. The tour would take 2 hours visiting the Dam and then visit Old Tanjil Township.

Arrangements made to pay petty cash to Conservation Co-ordinator.

Correspondence relevant to conservation.

C.C.V. News

R.A.O.U. Details of courses

S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group Newsletter.

N.T. Naturalist

N.E. Naturalist (Tas)

Victorian Naturalist

ECOS

Fire Seminar

Friends of the Earth recycling campaign.

The submission re the Morwell River Diversion was read and discussed.

The submission re the Proposed recommendations Alpine area L.C.C. was discussed.

Much time is spent by Mrs Thompson in preparation of these submissions on our behalf.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday July 20th at the home of Mr and Mrs Wall 156 Kay Street Traralgon. at 7.30 pm.

Supper Roster July 22nd. Mrs Sterkenburg Mrs Burns.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

All of the Latrobe Valley species have the former type of leaf, although there are two in East Gippsland with dorsio-ventral leaves. If any tree with this type of leaf is found here, it would most likely be one of these, Gippsland Mahogany, which has been widely planted along roadsides and other places, including the row of mature trees at the bottom of the Gippsland Arboretum. The West Australian Red-flowering Gum provides another example of this leaf form.

The inflorescence takes the form of an umbel from the leaf axils in all local species except the Boxes, which also form terminal panicles of bloom. The number of buds in an umbel, and their arrangement gives us an important clue to identification. Some species have seven buds in geometrical arrangement, six of them in sub-radial pattern, with one central bud; others having a random cluster. It should be noted that the number of buds comprising an umbel could be any number less than that stated, owing to injury or failure to develop.

The bark referred to in the key is that of trees which have passed the juvenile stage. The key does not include alpine or East Gippsland species. In use, the reference number on the right is again picked up on the left, and followed through until identity is established. Finally, this key is not put forward as an infallible guide, and perhaps one should add those oscope letters beloved of the accountants,

"E. & O.E"

contd.... PP 7.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

It will be readily conceded that Eucalypts fill a dominant place in the Australian landscape. From both the aesthetic and economic viewpoint, they are our most important trees. Moreover, they are almost exclusively Australian, as, with the exception of some half dozen species extending to the islands to our north, they occur naturally nowhere else in the world. Even our neighbour across the Tasman, New Zealand, has no native eucalypts.

The identification of the various species met with in our rambles is not always easy. Most people are content to call them all 'gum' trees and leave it at that, but the enquiring field naturalist will want to go further into the matter. The genus *Eucalyptus* is a very large one, comprising over 500 species. Of these, some 60 or 70 occur in Victoria, and between 20 and 30 in the area covered by our Club. Various keys to identification are available, some embracing the whole genus, others the Victorian members of it. Searching through this immense number is a formidable task, so it was felt that a key to the local species would be a help to some of our newer members. With this object in view, the key which follows has been drawn up, including only those species found in the area from the Latrobe Valley to the coast.

Of the keys to identification existing, that of W.F. Blakely is perhaps the most generally accepted. It is based in the first instance on the fact that the anthers of eucalypts display quite a wide range of variation in shape and manner of opening, enabling them to be classified into groups, which are then further classified by other characters. In practice, this method is of course limited in its application to the flowering period of the trees. Available line drawings of buds and fruit while useful in some respects, can be quite misleading in others, for although they may depict the individual bud or fruit faithfully, they are apt to ignore their proper arrangement and number per umbel.

The genus *eucalyptus* is acknowledged to be a difficult one for a number of reasons. There is superficially a close resemblance between certain species, particularly in the bark and habit of growth, influenced by soil, altitude and locality, and whether growing singly or crowded together in forests. Dramatic changes in foliage occur, from the juvenile stage, through various intermediate forms to the final mature stage. Buds, flowers and fruits (capsules) when available, are more reliable, but are sometimes absent, and usually high out of reach.

A search of the ground underneath trees will often yield broken off sprays or capsules, but when two or more species are growing in proximity, it may be difficult to decide which tree they have come from.

The same problem arises in linking juvenile seedlings with mature trees.

The mature leaves of eucalypts may be one or other of two distinct types, the isobilateral type, rare among broad-leaved plants, in which there is little or no difference between the two surfaces of the leaf, and the dorsio-ventral type common to most broad-leaved plants, in which upper and lower surfaces are distinct, the upper surfaces being glossy, with flush veins, and under surface dull, with veins standing out.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

contd...

- Dark smooth, except on base of trunk, periodically shed, 1.
 Bark rough, fibrous or stringy, persistent, 2.
1. Number of buds in a normal, complete umbel, three, 3.
 Number of buds in a normal, complete umbel, more than three, 4.
3. Buds and capsules rough and warted, over $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter ...E.bicostata
 Buds and capsules smooth, under $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter, 5.
5. Juvenile leaves green, lance shaped, ...E.viminalis.
 Juvenile leaves glaucous, round,... E.rubida.
4. Number of buds in a normal complete umbel seven, regularly arranged, 6.
 Number of buds in a normal complete umbel, seven to ten, irregularly arranged, leaf veins longitudinal,... E.pauciflora
6. Footstalks of umbels flattened or angular, 7.
 Footstalks of umbels round, 8.
7. Footstalks of umbels flat, buds stalked, tall tree,... E.cypello
 : carpa
 Footstalks of umbels angular, buds stalkless, small tree of the coastal plains, ...E.kitsoniana.
8. Umbels frequently in pairs, tall shaft-like tree, ...E.regmans.
 Umbels always borne singly, 9.
9. Bud cap much longer than capsule, rim and valves projecting, E.tereticornis.
 Bud cap same length as capsule, rim and valves flat,..E.ovata.
2. Surface of bark more or less furrowed longitudinally, 10.
 Surface of bark more or less even, not furrowed, 11.
10. Bark stringy or ropy, the outer portion loosely attached and removable in long strands, 12.
 Bark compact, firmly attached, removable only in short pieces or not at all, 13.
12. Number of buds in a normal complete umbel seven, regularly arranged, 14.
 Number of buds in a normal complete umbel more than seven, random arrangement, 15.
14. Juvenile leaves rounded, very glaucous,....E.cephalocarpa.
 Juvenile leaves lanceolate, light green,... E.huberiana.

contd...pp8

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

contd...

15. Juvenile leaves rough and hairy, capsules small, ... *E.scabra*.
Juvenile leaves smooth, not hairy, capsules larger, 16.
16. Juvenile leaves thick and glaucous, small to medium size tree,
E. consideniana.
17. Capsule longer than broad, valves deeply recessed, ... *E.obliqua*.
Capsule broader than long, 18.
18. Capsules stalkless, with conspicuous domed rim and valves,
E.baxteri.
Capsules shortly stalked, with flush rim and valves,
E.muelleriana
11. Bark flaky, scaly, orchekcared, Boxes, 19.
Bark sub-strihgy, interlaced, leaves peppermint scented, 20.
19. Inflorescence umbels only, valves protruding, ... *E.bridgesiana*.
Inflorescence umbels and panicles, valves recessed, 21.
21. Leaves almost or quite as broad as long, very glaucous,
E.polyanthemos.
Adult leaves lanceolate, 22.
22. Juvenile leaves elliptical, stalked and glaucous, *E.melliodora*.
Juvenile leaves heart-shaped, and stalkless, ... *E.bosistoana*.
20. Medium size tree with ascending trunk, juvenile leaves pale
green.... *E.radiata*.
Low tree with short crooked trunk, juvenile leaves glaucous,
E dives.
13. Bark very dark to black, intensely hard and deeply furrowed,
leaves Greyish-green, ... *E.sideroxylon*.
Bark on trunk Greyish-brown, branches smooth-barked and white,
leaves dark green, ... *E.sieberiana*.

Articles following will have brief notes on each of the individual species, and the localities where they may be found.

Bob Auchterlone.

Published L.V.Naturalist Issue No 35. October 1966

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB.</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY.</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 3421 29 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O.Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 4582 38 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGON F.N.C.</u> | | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building Kosciusko St. School. <u>TRARALGON</u> |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Brooks 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 231563 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. <u>WARRAGUL</u> |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 523792 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE</u> |

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS. and should be addressed to

Hon Editor.

Mrs L. Padfield

99 Chamberlain Rd.

NEWBOROUGH 3825

AUGUST, 1983.

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Protect and enjoy

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COMING EVENTS.Warragul F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday August 19th

Speaker

Mr and Mrs Crocombe

Milford Sound Walk (illustrated)

Excursion held on Sunday fortnight after meeting.

Meeting Place for excursions Civic Centre Car Park at 9.30 am.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting:

Friday August 26th

Speaker:

Mr Ryan (Tree planting and planning
in the Traralgon area)

Excursion:

Saturday August 27th.

Meeting Place:

Morwell civic Centre at 10.00am.
Old Fire Track Kay Street T'gon
at 1.15 pm.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

Campout

October 7.8.9. at Wilson's Prom.
(Stockyard Camping Park)

V.F.N.C.A. SPRINGTIME GET TOGETHER OF ALL CLUBS.

Ocean Grove

October 8th, 9th.

Contact Marie Allender for Motel information 03-527 2749.

Excursions and social evenings are planned.

EXCURSION TO MOUNT SPEED QUARRY 28th MAY 1983.

It was a cool but relatively fine morning when members met for the excursion to Mount Speed which is just out of Trafalgar. On arriving at the quarry we had a short wait until Mr Jack Dusting arrived with the key to the gate. Mr Dusting who was a former employee at the quarry now acts as caretaker for any persons or groups wishing to look over the quarry as it could be dangerous if there was unlimited access.

We drove up a short distance into the quarry and parked the cars, then proceeded to higher levels on foot. Many and varied were the hammers which made the quarry ring by the stone breakers looking in vain for a fossilized dinosaur or some equally interesting specimen.

Although nothing spectacular was found, many interesting observations were made. The beautiful iridescent colours found in the rocks was caused by the oxidisation of manganese and iron. Some of the colours were really brilliant. There were many specimens of chip size and slightly larger pieces of wood fossilized in the rock and charcoal like fossils which were possibly remains of a fire mixed into the sediment layer as it was laid down. Fern leaf impressions were found to be more plentiful on a higher level of the quarry. The sediment in the quarry is believed to be between 100-120 million years old. Some 3 or 4 times older than the coal at Yallourn.

The quarry was opened up in the early 1920's and continued until about 9 years ago when it was finally closed. The mount itself is now some 91-121 metres less in height now than it was when the quarrying began.

Some regeneration is now taking place and the Silvertop ash (Eucalyptus sieberi) are re-establishing themselves on what appears to be solid rock. Several members gave assistance to one tree which had fallen over but was not totally uprooted by supporting it with some rocks which were in plentiful supply. Prickly moses, goodenia and several other plants were gradually creeping back into the area. Tadpoling was one occupation which kept several junior members busy for some time. All captives being released before we left. Not to be ignored were the magnificent views one can get from the higher levels of the quarry overlooking Trafalgar and the Latrobe Valley.

Birds were not particularly noticeable, but considering the hammering that was done it was understandable that they kept their distance.

Wending our way back down to the car level, members all enjoyed their lunch and after thanking Mr Dusting for guiding our excursion through the quarry and Mr Bob Gaulton for his leadership and answers to our queries we left for home after a quite enjoyable day.

Iris Peterson.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

contd...

Following last month's Key, these additional notes provide a few more details of each species, particularly where these have a local bearing. Full descriptions would take up far too much space here, and in any case, these are readily obtainable elsewhere; nor would it be possible to give the full range of each species, but a few representative localities where each may be found are mentioned.

Just as animals, human or otherwise, form their own special friendships, so do Eucalyptus species appear to form associations one with another. This is often remarked upon, but the basic reason for it is probably that where two or more species associate, the local conditions are equally suited to each. Whatever it may be, we will often find Mountain Grey Gum growing in company with Mann Gum: Red and Yellow Box often share the same locality, while Candlebark and Snow Gum are inseparable friends, the specimen of each of which may be seen growing just across the road from the entrance to the Hazelwood Arboreteum. Up till about ten years ago, the Driffield Road just out of Morwell was lined with tall showy Candlebarks one hundred feet high, accompanied by Snow Gums of lesser stature. Then without warning, every tree was deliberately felled and removed, presumably to facilitate the take off and landing of planes, which were using the adjoining paddock as an airfield. Thus in a few hours of thoughtless and wanton destruction, these fine old trees met their end.

This is only part of a pattern all too frequently seen in recent years along our roadsides and elsewhere. "Slaughter, slaughter everywhere, Nor any stop to think!" The field is long time unused as an airfield, but no attempt was made to replant the roadside.

Probably the species with the widest circle of friends is Messmate, which particularly favours the company of Peppermint, but it is also found mingling with Mountain Grey Gum, the Stringybarks, Brown and Yellow, Yertchuk, and others to a lesser extent.

Some species, on the other hand, tend to keep to themselves, and seldom or to a very limited extent mix with other kinds, examples being Mountain Ash and Red Gum.

The meanings of the specific names are shown in brackets except where these are obviously commemorative.

E.bicostata. (two ribbed, referring to the buds) Victorian Blue Gum. Is easily recognizable by its larger, warted buds with powder-blue dusting. Juvenile leaves are also conspicuously powder-blue, borne on square section shoots. The true Blue Gum, E.globulus, is similar in all respects except that the buds are borne singly in the leaf axils, instead of in threes, and are somewhat larger. It is a Tasmanian species, and is said to occur also in Southern Gippsland. It would be worth while members keeping a lookout for this single-fruited form. Victorian Blue Gum occurs plentifully in the heavy grey soils of the Tarwin River catchment area, the South Gippsland Hills, and less frequently on the northern foothills of the Strzeleckie Ranges.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

contd...

E.viminalis.(having long flexible shoots). Manna Gum.

The favourite diet of the Koala, this tree is scattered over our entire area, although it shows considerable variation in form. On the chocolate volcanic soils it is a clean barked tree growing up to 60 metres, but at low altitudes on poor soils it assumed a more stunted form, with rough, almost stringy bark. Foliage is light and slender. Buds always in threes and are present for 12 months or more before opening.

E.rubida.(becoming red). Candlebark. The new bark is dazzling white, later developing most attractive patterns of reddish or plum-coloured patches prior to shedding. The inflorescence is an exact replica of Manna Gum. It is not very plentiful, but may be seen along the Midland Highway between Morwell and Yinnar, and the Driffield-Hernes Oak road.

E.pauciflora.(few flowered). Snow Gum or White Sallee.

It is one of the easiest gums to identify. The lateral veins run almost the full length of the leaf, almost parallel with the midrib, instead of diverging outwards as in all other species. A low tree, with one or several crooked trunks. Its specific name is rather inappropriate, as in this district it flowers quite profusely. Capsules fairly large, with a conspicuous rim. Look for it along the Midland Highway, opposite the Hazelwood Pondage.

E.cyellocarpa.(goblet-shaped fruit). Mountain Grey gum.

A thick-barked, heavy foliated tree. Buds are crudely finished, and the 7 flowered umbel is not always symmetrical. Prefers the rich soils and high rainfall area, where it may reach an enormous size, and heights over 60 metres. From one tree at Narracan brought down by the 1939 fires nine hundred and forty seven full size fence posts were split. May be found at Thorpdale, Narracan, Darlimurla and throughout the hills.

E.kilsoniana.Gippsland Mallee or Bog Gum. A low growing tree with the 'mallee' habit of sending up multitude stems from a common swollen rootstock. Confined to the coastal plains in poorly drained soils of low fertility.

E.regnans(reigning) Mountain Ash. The undisputed monarch and largest tree of the whole gums, reaching heights of over 90 metres. For the first 6-9 metres, the bark is persistent, soft and felt like, thence upward it is smooth and of greenish colour. This species must have rainfall of 1000 millimetres or over, and favours altitudes between 300-900 metres. Its timber is clean-grained, and suitable for a multitude of purposes, from milling, furniture and flooring, to pulpwood, but is not durable when in contact with the ground. A feature of the log is that the sapwood merges gradually into the heartwood, without the distinct line of demarcation noticeable in most timbers. Mountain Ash forest covered large tracts of Central and southern Gippsland hill country up to the time of white settlement, the Thorpdale South area being noted for the size and density of its trees. It is lamentable that no effort was made by the authorities, this tree one of which was calculated by Mr G.Cornthwaite, a surveyor, to be 370 ft(112.80metres) high, and which would make it the world's tallest tree- with an area surrounding it

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

contd...

E.regnans contd..However, it may not have been possible to have protected it from the all-consuming bush fires which have swept the area subsequently. The tree was duly felled by piling splitters, and stretched out on the ground measured 375 feet (123 metres). Some indication of the size of these trees is given by an old photo showing a stack of 10,000 6 ft.palings all split from one tree. Commencing 90 years ago, the transformation of this forest to farms is now virtually complete, and, for what consolation it may be, its place has been taken by some of the most highly productive pastures and potato fields in Australia. Bulga and Tarra Valley Parks are suggested as the best places to view Mountain Ash today.

E.tereticornis.(with cylindrical horns) Forest Red gum.

The common name refers to the colour of the timber, not the flowers. As with the Blue Gums, so with the Red Gums, we have two closely related species, this one and the River Red Gum E.camaldulensis, differing only in the shape of the cap or operculum. In the former it is quite long, projecting outwards like a horn, in the latter it is short and pointed. Forest Red Gum is the one occurring in our area, where it may be found on the open grassy plains from Traralgon eastwards. Rugged, gnarled and twisted, they make a favourite artists' subject. There are several specimens at the bottom of the Hazelwood Arboretum, planted by the previous owner of the land. Forest Red Gum furnishes a good example of the double operculum, more noticeable on some species than others. The outer one, thin and papery, represents the calyx or sepals, fused together, and is shed first, followed by the main or inner one, representing the corolla or petals likewise fused together, which is pushed off by the developing anthers at flowering time. In some species the two caps remain closely attached, and are shed as one. River Red Gum is found throughout Australia, usually along the rivers and watercourses of the inland. Our nearest examples occur in the Dandenong Hallam area.

E.ovata.(egg-shaped, referring to the juvenile leaves). Swamp Gum. Makes a geometrically precise 7 flowered umbel, with slender stalks and footstalk. Capsule and cap are triangular in section and of like dimensions. Leaves often have wavy or undulating margins. Swamp Gum is found throughout our area, usually near streams or in low lying places, but occasionally extending up the hillsides.

to be concluded in the next issue of Naturalist.

these articles by the late Mr Bob Auchterlonie were published in the L.V.F.N.C.Newsletter October, November, December 1966.

EXCURSION TO MOUNT WORTH.

25/6/83

For once the weather forecast of rain hail and strong winds was correct, but this did not stop nine cars and passengers from assembling at the meeting place at Darnum. Everyone was suitably dressed for such a day and all were anxious to be off. I couldn't but think that only Mad Dogs and Field Naturalists would brave such conditions !!

We travelled towards the Strzelecki Ranges through very pretty country to Mt. Worth State Park. The following is a short history of the park. In 1970 the Warragul Shire Council and the Warragul Field Naturalists Club worked together to have the valley of Moonlight Creek proclaimed a National Park. Over the years the State Government has purchased further freehold land (usually parks are proclaimed on Crown Land) and now the park boundaries are the Grand Ridge Road, McDonalds Track and Sargassers road. The area has moonlight creek flowing east, the West Tarwin flowing south - these gullies have more or less escaped clearing and support many ferns, mosses and lichens as well as small stands of outstanding Mountain Grey Gums (E.cypellocarpa) and Mountain Ash (E.regnans), Silver Wattle (A.dealbata) and Blackwood (A.melanoxylon). This area is also valuable as a refuge for many animals and birds. Part of the park is high and includes the highest peak on McDonalds Track - Mt Worth - named after an early settler to the area Richard Worth. Early settlers to the whole area must have faced a mighty challenge to clear the land of such tremendous Eucalypts in such hilly country, and in such wet conditions and with the equipment in use at the time. It had to be done in order to establish farms and make a living for their families. The Gullies such as Moonlight Creek were much harder work and were left relatively untouched, but even then at least 10 timber mills were known to have operated within the area of the park over a period of 70 years. A few sawdust heaps and old rusting pieces of machinery are still to be seen as evidence of these activities.

It was decided to divide into two groups - the long walkers would carry their lunch and walk for several hours under the leadership of Mr Brooks. The short walkers would walk until lunch time and then return being led by Mrs Brooks.

The short walkers followed the valley of Moonlight Creek, everything was dripping wet and looking just as a "Forest Gully in Winter" should look. Ferns, fungi, lichens and mosses were most recognised from the slides of the previous night. We found a perfect specimen of Cordyceps. Being the month of June the Lyrebirds were at their best and went right through their repertoire. It really was a privilege to listen to such an outstanding concert, so loud and clear it could be heard through the whole valley. It was one of those rare moments.

We came back out of the shelter of the mountains and tall trees to a positive gale, rain, hail and even snow!!! However though we were all wet, frozen and hungry we agreed we had had a wonderful day. All vowed to visit the park again in better weather when we could stop and study the plants without freezing to death !!!

Iris Peterson.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JULY 20th 1983.

The bank balance stands at 725.51 less amount overpaid by members.
Accounts for payment. Postage Naturalist \$50.00
Petty Cash Cons. Co-ord. \$ 20.00

Suggested that the Treasurer estimate the probable expenses for the year and place an amount in a higher interest account on 3 month call.

August Meeting. Mr Ryan will speak on Landscaping and tree planting in the Traralgon area. Mrs Reeves to contact Mr Ryan re inclusion of Crinigan Rd Reserve in excursion.

Arrangements as printed on front cover.

Correspondence. Shire of Morwell re Latrobe Regional Committee Bill.
National Heart Foundation re donation and door knock.
Baringa Special School Moe ..Financial help.
Westfield Nat .Club Assoc. re tours.
Friends of the Earth ..Roxby Downs Uranium Mining.
V.F.N.C. Guidelines for Alpine Submission
N.E.Naturalist (Tas). N.T.Naturalist .Vic Environs.
S.G.A.P. Maroonah Group newsletter.

All correspondence to be tabled at General meetings.

Boat Trip. The boat holds 49 people and will cost \$200.00 for the day
Decided that the charge be:- Adults \$6.00 Children \$4.00
6-16 years

This would ensure hire cost covered in case of late cancellations/
Bookings and money to be taken at General Meeting.

Conservation Co-ordinator.

Questionnaire from University of Wollongong re Victorian Coalfields.
Mrs Thompson will forward completed forms.

Chairman of the Gormandale Committee requested information re the Kinhill Report for their submission.

Fisheries and wildlife request help in their projects.

Jack Smith's Lake, Heart Reserve, Dowds Moorass, Sale Common, Clydebank Moorass and Lake Coleman are all in the Sale-Dairnsdale area.

We would be willing to help but suggest that the projects should be covered by groups within that area.

Ministry of conservation have written re Presenting comments on Mt Stirling, near Mt Buller. (we have already commented on that area)

The next business meeting will be held on Wednesday August 24th at the home of Mr and Mrs Lubcke 221a Helen Street Morwell at 7.30 pm.

Supper roster August 26th. Mrs Branson Jane Purbrick.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

CLUB.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

HON. SECRETARY.

Mrs I. Peterson
14 Barry Street,
Morwell 3840
'phone 3421 29

MEETINGS.

7.30pm. on 4th Friday
each month, at
Regional Education
Centre, Kirk St. MOE

SALE F.N.C.

Mr Maclean
P.O. Box 302
SALE 3850
'phone 4582 38

8.00pm on 1st Friday
each month, room 13
Continuing Education
Centre, Raymond Street
SALE

TRARALGONE F.N.C.

8.00pm. on 1st Friday
each month, at L.V.
Education Building
Kosciusko St. School.
TRARALGON

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Mr J. Brooks
3 Nobel Street
WARRAGUL 3820
'phone 231 563

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
Public Library.
WARRAGUL

BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.

Mr E.V. Barton
13 Turnbull Street
BAIRNSDALE 3875
'phone 523 792

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
C.W.A. Hall
BAIRNSDALE

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, Payable to Hon Treasurer

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P.O. Box 169
NEWBOROUGH 3825

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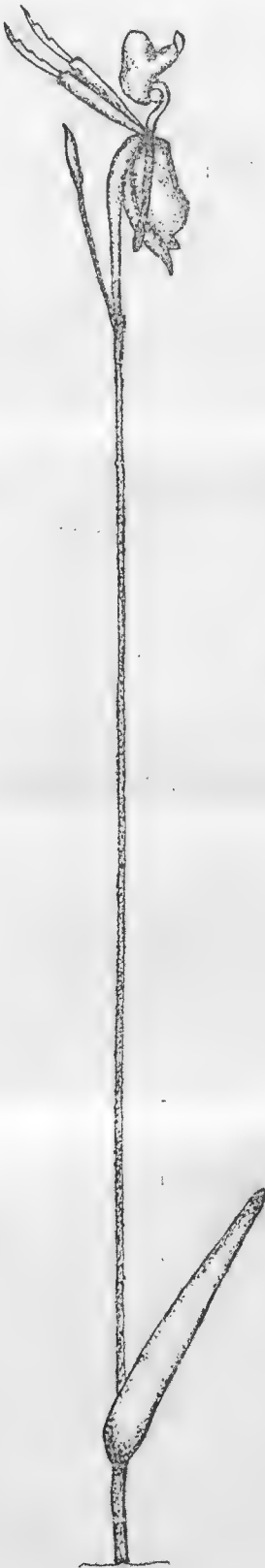
Hon Editor.

Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825

SEPTEMBER, 1983.

ISSUE No. 237.

Latrobe Valley Naturalist



Protect and enjoy

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Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH 1569.

COMING EVENTS.WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday September 16th
Speaker: Mr Jim Parise
"Australian Natural History Stamps"
Excursion: Sunday fortnight after meeting
Meeting Place: Civic Centre Car Park at 9.30 am.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday September 23rd.
Speaker: Mrs Joy Johnstone
"Birds"
Excursion: Saturday September 24th BOAT TRIP
Meeting Place: The Main Jetty Paynesville at 10.00am
Near the ferry opp. Hotel.
Orchid Excursion: Saturday 15th October
Crinigan Rd Reserve
Meeting Place: Morwell civic Centre at 10.00 am

TRARALGON F.N.C.

Campout at Wilson's Promontory (Stockyard Camping Park)
October 7,8,9,

V.F.N.C.A. SPRINGTIME GET TOGETHER AT OCEAN GROVE
October 8th, 9th.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS

concluding article by Mr Bob Auchterlonie.

This month the rough -barked species are reviewed.

Eucalyptus cephalocarpa (heads of fruit). Silver-leaf Stringybark. A small to medium size tree, confined to the poorer soils, its glaucous juvenile foliage is the chief source of the gum tips used for interior decoration. Individual trees sometimes display a reluctance to switch over from the juvenile to the adult stage, and fully grown trees with flowers and fruits may be found still clothed entirely with juvenile foliage. the adult leaves are narrow lanceolate, and are not glaucous. Abundant around Moe, while picturesque groves of it line the Prince's Highway north of Bunyip.

E.huberiana(Rough-barked Ribbon Gum), a rather unsuitable common name. Buds and fruits resemble Manna -um, but are always in sevens. A small tree of infrequent occurrence, but may be seen at Edward Hunter Reserve, the Walhalla road, Moe, Driffield, and Junction of the Prince's Highway with Fogarty's Road.

E.scabra.(rough). White Stringybark, is also not common here, but occurs on the sandy area on the Traralgon- Gormandale road. Buds and capsules are quite small, and up to fifteen in an umbel. Juvenile leaves covered with short bristles.

E.consideniana. Yertchuk, more often called Prickly Stringy. A small to medium size tree. Haunted Hills, Trig Point, golden Gully Road, Darlimurla.

E.obliqua(slanting unequal-sided leaves) .Messmate. Although many eucalypts have unequal -sided leaves, this character is possessed to a marked extent by Messmate, and it is not uncommon for two thirds of the leaf area to be on one side of the midrib, with one third on the other. Umbels may contain up to 12 buds, arranged at random, and yellow in colour. Occasional panicles are formed. E.obliqua was one of the first eucalypts to be described and named, from material collected in Van Diemen's Land almost two centuries ago. It is the most widespread species in our area, and occurs throughout, with the exception of the drier parts in the east. It is a favourite with campers its soft fibrous bark providing kindling material even in the wetter weather.

E.baxteri.Brown Stringybark. A large tree with a superficial resemblance to the previous species, but differing materially in the fruits, which are quite broad and stalkless, and form tight globular clusters. Golden Gully and Mountain Hut roads, Yinnar South and Darlimurla,.

E.muelleriana. Yellow Stringybark. The inner bark is yellow. Is confined to small areas in the Latrobe Valley such as Explorers Road and Whitelaw's Track, Yinnar South, but is much more plentiful in the eastern part of South Gippsland.

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS.

contd....

E.bridgesiana. But-But, also called Apple Box.

Although this possesses a box-like bark, it does not form the panicles of bloom which distinguish the true boxes. Is fairly widespread, Hazelwood, Tyers, Driffield, Mirboo North.

E.polyanthemos (many flowered) Red Box. Forms a broad crowned tree with long drooping branches, and very glaucous foliage, sometimes with an underlying plum colour. It has the broadest leaves of any of our eucalypts; the juvenile leaves may be broader than long, with a terminal notch instead of a point. Red Box is confined to the eastern portion of our area, where both rainfall and altitudes are lower than in the west.

E.melliodora (honey scented), Yellow Box. The source of our best quality honey, this has the same range as the previous species. Young growth is glaucous, but this disappears as it matures. Just prior to opening, the buds take on an attractive waxy appearance, cream coloured with a red flush. They are borne in both regular umbels of seven, and leafy panicles.

E.bosistoana. Gippsland Box. A large tree with a much more limited range than the previous two. Yinnar south, Upper flynn.

E.radiata. (ray-like). Peppermint. the specific name refers to the umbels, which may have up to 30 or more quite small buds radiating outwards in all directions. Older trees develop a weeping form of growth. Common throughout. Classification of the Peppermints presents problems, and has been marked over the years by shuffling and name-changing, and finality may not yet be reached.

E dives. (rich). Broad-leaf or Blue Peppermint. Differs from the previous species in that the juvenile leaves are broad and glaucous, the fruits are slightly larger, and the tree smaller. It flowers most profusely, and is confined to the loose sandy soils.

E.sideroxylon. (iron wood). Red Ironbark. This tough tree chooses a tough environment, in the gravelly and stoney foothills north of Glengarry, Cowarr etc.. It yields the hardest and most durable of our timbers, pink to reddish in colour. the flowers vary from cream to rose pink. are quite large, and borne in threes. Red Ironbark in flower seems to possess an irresistible attraction for Wattle Birds, which assemble in large numbers to feed on its nectar, the while giving vent to the wierd variations of their vocal repertoire.

E.sieberiana. Silvertop. The bark of saplings is bluish colour, followed by a stage with an attractive lacy pattern, and eventually the hard adult type. A young tree with the lacy bark on trunk, silver white branches, and deep red twigs, makes a handsome specimen. On account of its hard thick bark, and clean unbranched bole, Silvertop is one of our most fire-resistant eucalypts -fires which severely damage other species leaving it unharmed. McDonald's Track, Mountain Hut road, Moe south. Fairly widespread.

contd....

LATROBE VALLEY EUCALYPTS. contd...

Finally a note on hybrids. From time to time trees are found intermediate in character between two species, and which may be presumed to be the result of cross-pollination. A few years ago, such a tree grew near the Marracan township, where the prevailing species are Manna Gum, Mountain Grey Gum, and Swamp Gum. this tree had the buds and fruits typical of Mountain Grey gum, with flattened peduncle, but they were all borne in threes, as in Manna Gum. the tree was eventually cut down to make way for an S.E.C. power line. Trees intermediate between Mountain Ash and Messmate are not uncommon.

References: R.T.Patton. 'Know Your Own Trees'.
W.F.Blakely. 'A Key to the Eucalypts'.
Department of Agriculture. 'The Honey Flora of Victoria'
Forestry and Timber Bureau Canberra.
'Eucalyptus Buds and Fruits'.

Bob Auchterlonie.

We hope readers will find these reprinted articles helpful in identifying the local eucalypts. Ed.

BUTTERFLIES.

When I was very young, about 6 or 7, a school concert was arranged at No 1617. My share of it was to recite a poem. At the appointed hour I was pushed out from the wings and tottered out on to the stage in front of that sea of faces, there must have been at least twenty of them! Somehow I managed to deliver the following gem of natural history.

My teacher told me yesterday
And she is very wise
That horrid little squirmy worms
Make lovely butterflies.

But I heard Bridget tell Mamma
And she said it with a sigh
"Ah Mum, it is the hot brown scones
That make the butter fly !

Ellen Lyndon.

MOUNT WORTH EXCURSION PART 2.

25/6/83.

With the rain still falling, 10 hardy(or should I say fool-hardy) walkers, decided to continue on for the remainder of the walk- a total distance of approximately 5 Km. We left the main group near where the twin-tree track rejoined the main track and soon after were climbing Rough Tree Fern Spur, which some of us thought might have been more aptly named Blanket-leaf spur! There were some magnificent "old man" Blanket-leaf trees scattered amongst the Tree-ferns both rough and smooth.

there were beautiful gardens of Kangaroo Ferns, crustose and foliose lichens and several different species of mosses on many of the Dogwood trees. There were also several species of ferns including Mother-shield, Hard-water, and the occasional Bat's-wing fern sighted along this section of the walk.

As we neared the top of Rough Tree-fern spur, the rain stopped and it began to hail - the theme of the walk- Fern gullies in Winter could not have been more appropriate! . Having reached the top, lunch break was called for and while most of us stood or sat on our haunches eating our lunches in the rain, our leader Jack Brooks took the luxury of sitting on a spare coat. We had hardly been there 10 minutes when we were beset by another hail storm and in no time the ground around us was white with hail-stones. When Mr Brooks got to his feet shortly afterwards, he discovered to his dismay that he had been sitting in a pool of water and ice.

We continued along the top of the ridge, getting used to the hail storms which continued, and it was here, I think Mr Brooks pointed out a young Turnip-wood Tree. He told us a very sad story of the only two adult Turnip-wood trees he has ever seen which used to grow on a nearby farm property until the farmer had them bull-dozed out. Mr Brooks also pointed out Stinkwood trees along this trail and it was here as well that we began to try to sort out the Cassinias and helichrysums but with little success. The predominant ferns in this area were Bracken fern, together with some Kangaroo-fern and of course both types of Tree fern. There were also lichens and a variety of mosses.

The next part of the trip was around the head of Moonlight Creek and down into Lyrebird Gully which lived up to its name with a Lyrebird putting on a lovely solo concert. We could hear him singing together with several other Lyrebirds throughout most of the walk and he didn't seem to mind at all when we seemed to pass quite close to him.

Here we began to see most of the "wet climate" ferns such as Fish-ferns, Veined Bristle-fern, Shiny Filmy-fern, Maiden -hair, Long Fork-ferns as well as most of the species mentioned earlier also a slender Tree-fern. /We were busy studying all kinds of ferns, lichens and mosses on quite a thick tree when we suddenly realised it was a huge "old man" cassinia I really regretted not being able to photograph it.

MOUNT WORTH EXCURSION PART 2

25/6/83

as we scrambled and slid down the steep sides of the gully looking for the slender Tree-fern, we passed under a couple of large Mountain Ash which had scratch marks on the trunks where Sugar Gliders had been landing. We also discovered an old Wedge-tailed Eagle's nest high in a Mountain Ash tree. Other plants of note were Mountain Correa, Musk bush, several species of Olearia, Pomaderris and Fieldia. Although there wasn't a lot of fungi, we did see some magnificent dark brown shelf fungi with a white fringe and some smaller white ones. There were fan-fungi and a gorgeous patch of small bright orange fungi near the base of a tree.

When we finally returned to the cars most of the rest of the party had already left and so ended a most enjoyable day. Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Brooks for their leadership in spite of the weather.

Jane Purbrick.

CORRECTIONS.

July Naturalist Page 2. Par 3. Line 3 should read. On looking across the river to Jim's cairn I once again admired the siting.....

August Naturalist. Excursion to Mount Speed Quarry article was written by Jean Merson.

Apologies from the editor.

ROTAMAH ISLAND COURSES.

R.A.O.U.

Finding Nests Allan Burbidge

14-17 October

Native Animals Julie Raines

29 Oct- 1 November

Ants and Other Insects Allan Anderson and Mary-anne McKaige

2 - 5 December

For information re courses contact Allan Burbidge or Julie Raines
at Rotamah Island Bird Observatory P.O.Box 75 Paynesville Vic.3880
Phone (051)566 398.

Recent Plant Discoveries.

Clindamon's Scrub, Cassinia arcuta, a relative of the common dogwood, a plant of the central goldfields area, is apparently touring around the country with road-making machinery or falling off the back of cattle transports. It is appearing by new roadsides or following new work, in Gippsland, in such places as Stradbroke, Horwell area and Leongatha North. It will probably go unnoticed when not in flower but the brown tassels mark it for a stranger. Watch for it, as I think its on the noxious list.

Ellen Lyndon.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 24th 1983.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY BILL.

Mr Lubcke reported that he attended the meeting re this bill.
Most councils are not in favour of the Bill.

FINANCE An amount of \$500.00 has been placed on 30 day call at
a higher rate of interest.

Subscription to ECOS TO be paid \$5.00

BOAT TRIP.

This will take place as arranged. 37 people have booked so cost of
the boat is paid for. Mrs Johnstone to be the guest of the Club.

EXTRA EXCURSION

October 15th as announced in programme. Details on front cover.

Correspondence

Fisheries and Wildlife re project. C.S.I.R.O. re Wombats in the area
Yarram Cons. Group re Victorian Timber Industry

Ministry of Conservation List of projects being undertaken

Forest Commission re symposium on controlled burning and firefighting.

Fisheries and Wildlife re Sth Gippsland Marine and wildlife rederves

Seminar... Forest economies

C.C.V. News. C.C.V. Alpine Resorts Community Bill

S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group Newsletter and Advert for display.

West Vic Naturalist Club Association re tours

World Wildlife newsletter . Escort Tours of Little Desert.

No action to be taken re Vic Timber Industry.

Secretary to contact C.S.I.R.O. re Wombats.

Mr Wall reported that no firm answer from Forestry re campout Jan 1984

Further investigations re alternatives being taken .

Members to be asked for suggestions for 1984 programme.

6 months had passed since costs of Naturalist was discussed.

discussion deferred to September business meeting when the editor and
treasurer would be present.

CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR. Letter received from Ministry of Conserv-
ation re discussion paper on a State Conservation Strategy would soon
be available for comments.

Copy of C.C.V. submission re Victorian Coalfields received.

General disappointment in the submission .

The next business meeting will be held on Wednesday September 21st at
the home of the Walls 156 Kay street Traralgon at 7.30 pm.

SUPPER ROSTER September 23rd Mrs Padfield Mrs Coggan

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

| <u>CLUB.</u> | <u>HON. SECRETARY.</u> | <u>MEETINGS.</u> |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <u>LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.</u> | Mrs I. Peterson 14 Barry Street, Morwell 3840 'phone 3421 29 | 7.30pm. on 4th Friday each month, at Regional Education Centre, Kirk St. <u>MOE</u> |
| <u>SALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr Maclean P.O.Box 302 SALE 3850 'phone 4582 38 | 8.00pm on 1st Friday each month, room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond Street <u>SALE</u> |
| <u>TRARALGONE F.N.C.</u> | | 8.00pm. on 1st Friday each month, at L.V. Education Building Kosciusko St. School. <u>TRARALGON</u> |
| <u>WARRAGUL F.N.C.</u> | Mr J. Eeroles 3 Nobel Street WARRAGUL 3820 'phone 2315 63 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. Public Library. <u>WARRAGUL</u> |
| <u>BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.</u> | Mr E.V. Barton 13 Turnbull Street BAIRNSDALE 3875 'phone 5237 92 | 8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month. C.W.A. Hall <u>BAIRNSDALE</u> |

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COMING EVENTS.WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday October 21st
"Members Night"
Excursion Sunday November 13th
Contact Secretary for details.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday October 28th
Speaker: Mr W.Cane "Propagation of Native Plants"
Excursion: Saturday October 29th.
to the Channel Country (Avon River)
Meeting Place: Old Butter Factory Heyfield at
10.00 am
Weekend Campout: Wilson's Promontory November 3,4,5,
Members to make own arrangements.

TRARALGON F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday November 4th
Speaker: Sid Cooke "Reptiles"

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Mrs Ringin has advised that all arrangements are in hand for the Christmas party at BUndilla. Signs will be in place and the family are looking forward to the day. December 17th.

BLUE ROCK DAM. 22/7/83

It is easy to believe that dam building has not been the most popular vocation to pursue in recent times, be it on a wild river in Tasmania or a peaceful river valley in Gippsland. As we in the Latrobe Valley know well, someone's interests are always affected by any large scale development, be it highways, new power stations or new dams.

At the July meeting, Mr Tony Wessington, Resident Geologist, with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, at the Blue Rock Dam, situated on the Tanjil river, North of Moe near the township of Willowgrove, spoke on the development of the dam from the initial planning to the present, almost completed stage. Mr Wessington's talk was very well prepared and illustrated with slides and charts. The following is a report of the talk at the meeting and the excursion to the dam site the next day.

A Parliamentary Public Works committee Inquiry was commenced in 1972 to study ways to harness and conserve Latrobe river water. The Inquiry was to last six years and included input from the S.E.C.V. the S.R.&W.S.C. and the public. On September 19, 1978, the P.P.W.C.I. recommended the construction of a dam on the Tanjil River.

Many people representing many sciences were involved with the dam construction; some of these sciences were hydrology, hydrography, meteorology, geology, geomorphology, seismicity, topography, cartography, botany, biology, ecology etc.. The accumulated results of the scientific studies are used by engineers to determine the siting and type of construction of the dam wall.

Dam walls are usually of either concrete and stone, or rockfill embankment type construction, with the rockfill embankment wall being favoured whenever possible as, provided suitable materials are available close to the construction site, this type of construction has a distinct economic advantage over the concrete and stone type construction.

The purpose of the wall is, of course, to hold back a large volume of water, and the major influence on the volume is the rainfall over the catchment area. The Tanjil river is in the Mt Baw Baw catchment and the rainfall at Baw Baw averages 1800mm per annum, and this varies to 950 mm at Willowgrove. The total Latrobe river catchment is in the vicinity of 4000 square kilometres, of which the Tanjil River catchment is approximately 370 square kilometres.

A problem has been the decline in rainfall in recent years, as evidenced by the figures for the Moe area, which ranged from an average near 1000mm in the years 1970-1977, to 819mm in 1980, 800mm in 1981 to 748mm in 1982. Approximately 10% of the rainfall in the mountains finishes up in streams, as runoff, or from springs.

BLUE ROCK DAM.

contd...

Four possible sites on the Tanjil River were considered for the Blue rock dam and reports indicated that there were no environmental factors to cause concern at any of the proposed sites. The final decision best met the main requirements in dam building-retaining the greatest volume of water, an estimated 200,000 megalitres for the Blue Rock Dam, behind the smallest possible wall. The type of dam favoured for the site was the rockfill embankment construction. the name Blue Rock came from the blue colour of the broken rock used to face the dam wall.

Construction of the dam commenced in October 1979 and it is expected to commence storing water in October 1983. The drought conditions experienced in recent years, which gave a high priority to the completion of the dam at the earliest possible date, also gave excellent conditions for dam construction, and completion will be one year ahead of the original scheduled date. Favourable weather conditions are an important factor in any type of dam construction.

Some geological problems were experienced during construction. Frequent faulting in the rock face resulted in a number of rock slides during construction and required stabilising with concrete to smooth the rock face. Suggestions had been made that features known as "deep leads" would cause problems by allowing seepage of water from the dam. The deep leads are ancient river beds which had, over thousands of years, been filled with gravels, sands and clay. It was thought that water would leak into and flow through the deep leads and emerge outside the dam, thus the efficiency of the dam would be severely diminished. Investigations showed that the deep leads had been naturally sealed with clay which was very hard and would not allow seepage into the gravels and sands below.

Water use from the dam is committed even before a drop has been stored. However, flow and salinity will finally determine where the water will be finally used. The people who are dependent on the Moon-darra Dam for their water supply were pleased to know that a pipeline would go to that dam for "topping up" in years when the Tyers River flow is down. The dam will allow an assured flow downstream in the Tanjil river and this will result in an improvement in the river ecology in the summer months.

It is the Latrobe Valley industries, particularly the power industry, which will be the major users of water from the dam.

Armed with this background information, about 40 people assembled at the site construction village on Saturday morning to view the Blue Rock Dam in the "flesh". Mr Tony Wessington proved to be as excellent a guide at the site as he had been a speaker at the meeting the night before.

contd..pp 3

BLUE ROCK DAM.

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The starting point was inside the dam at the base of the outlet tower, still to be completed. The river flows through a tunnel under the wall until the dam is completed. A subsidiary system allows for a flow into the river downstream before the water level in the dam reaches the outlet tower and also in years of drought when the level of water in the dam is below the outlet tower. Examples were seen of where slips in the bedding plains had been stabilised with concrete and mesh coverings placed to prevent weathering.

A drive across the wall to see the concrete spillway under construction was next and it was interesting to stand in the centre of the spillway and look down on the vast area of concrete over which the overflow from the dam will race down to the river below. Also of interest was the ogee curve (S shaped curve) at the top of the spillway, which is a force reducing barrier and breaks the velocity of the water just before it flows over the spillway. President Jim explained that the ogee principle can also be seen on some ships as a protrusion on the bow(sharp end) below the water line.

On this side of the wall the centre clay core and the sand filters were exposed. the core is triangular in shape, being some 70 metres at the base, narrowing to approximately 4 metres across at the top, and extends the full length of the wall. The filters are 3 metres wide with a coarse and fine filter each side of the clay core as support for the core and drainage of seepage at a controlled rate.

The wall of the dam is faced with mudstone and although it had been in place for about a year, severe weathering of the stone was observed. As the wave action of stored water would have a further damaging effect, a 200mm skin of concrete was being placed over the stone for protection.

The next area to be inspected was the bottom of the wall on the downstream side. Here the river was pouring out through the tunnel under the wall, and also to be seen was the rock lined plunge pool at the bottom of the spillway, so designed to prevent the flow of water off the spillway causing an erosion problem.

As mentioned earlier, one of the advantages of the dam is the assured flow of water in the Tanjil river in the dry months of the year. Provision has been made to take water from the top 3 metres of water in the dam as the deeper water is considerably colder as well as lacking oxygen, and is not suitable for releasing onto the stream.

On completion of the construction work, a committee will plan the landscaping of the area around the dam and determine what recreational activities will be permitted.

After lunch, a visit was made upstream to the site of Old Tanjil, an alluvial gold mining site on the river, now deserted and with very little evidence to indicate that a bustling community once existed here.

contd..pp4

BLUE ROCK DAM.

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Red Lowry Parrots and Lyrebirds were observed to make up part of the community there now, although perhaps not for long, as the Forests Commission is arranging the removal of all useable timber and burning the debris. The reason for this is that this area will be submerged as the dam fills. The water will extend for some 24 kilometres upstream from the wall, and will be 5 times larger than Moondarra, when the dam is filled.

An interesting feature, also to be lost below the water, is a cutting dug through a bend in the river to form a race, made by and used by miners to sluice for gold.

As the Field Naturalists thought that this would be the last opportunity to visit this area before it is flooded, most busied themselves collecting "souvenirs" along the river bank before departing.

All present expressed their appreciation to Mr Tony Wessington for what had been a most comprehensive and informative tour of the dam site and an interesting visit to the historic site of Old Tanjil.

Bruce Adams.

URBAN LANDSCAPING

talk by Mr Ryan 26/8/83

Mr Ryan opened his talk by saying that he hoped to offer the Club something different in the way of subject matter than may be usual. His subject was to be Urban Landscaping. The Town and Country Planning Act requires a permit to be issued before any building may be constructed. A landscape plan submission is part of the requirement in obtaining a permit and responsible authorities insist upon this requirement being met. However, developers sometimes provide poor landscape plans and do not budget sufficient funds for this part of their development project. Mr Ryan went on to detail aspects of four categories of urban development.

1. Commercial areas.

These include office buildings, supermarkets, petrol stations, hotels and carparks. A number of plans which had been submitted by developers were shown throughout the evening to demonstrate the standard of submission Mr Ryan was expecting.

Each plan was evaluated for its suitability to the particular development. For example, petrol stations require plants which will thrive in the inevitable fumes from the petrol. Car Parks require the "see over or under" principle. Plants in car parks must either be below the drivers vision or grow to have their lowest branches above the drivers vision.

contd..pp 5

URBAN LANDSCAPING.

contd...

2. Industrial A wide range of landscape requirements apply to industrial sites. The reasons for landscaping these areas fall into three categories; screening, beautification and softening. Developers need to be 'sold' a plan usually based on low initial cost using plants in tubes or pots and low maintenance such as using a light weedicide annually and no grass for regular mowing. Mr Ryan told us that Traralgon City Council are attempting to improve the Argyle Street approach to the city by persuading the residents to participate in landscaping and are having some success.

3. Residential areas- Flats. Neither landlords nor tenants are keen to landscape or maintain. Flats and units often look bare and unattractive. It was explained that local authorities should not give certificates of occupancy unless landscaping is done and much effort is needed to persuade builders to co-operate. The Sunset Waters development in Traralgon was discussed. This special development of lake and park is experimental and there may be problems in the future with access to underground services when having so many street trees.

4. Parks and Gardens. The upkeep of parks and gardens is a large part of the work and costs of councils. Traralgon City Council budget approximately \$500,000 annually for parks and gardens upkeep. In the past, passive linear parks were established but these have the disadvantages of long fence lines. The trend is now towards large open parks for passive recreation. A landscape overview is currently being prepared by the City of Traralgon. Mr Ryan explained the importance of public involvement in landscaping ventures. He gave the example of 1000 children each planting a tree in a recent project. This sort of community help gave a great deal of satisfaction to many, but also created work for the council rather than saving work. With greater public involvement there was usually a greater reduction in vandalism.

Mr Ryan then talked about a strategy plan for the City of Traralgon.

1. Traralgon Creek Recreation Study.

A grant from the Department of Youth Sport and Recreation is being used to hire consultants to produce a series of proposals for this area. Activities like jogging, walking and cycling are suggested. Public involvement will be sought to choose a plan and commit council to work on it year by year.

2. Future Botanic Garden. Two steps have been taken. An excellent site has been made available by the Health Department and a minimum maintenance botanic park is being proposed. Funds are not currently available for works.

3. List of Indigenous Trees. Mr Ryan had a list of trees prepared in the early days of settlement. He intends soon to produce a book of local indigenous trees to be available to the public. Help was sought from this Club to locate and identify trees to prepare a list for protection to be submitted to Council.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 21st 1983.

January Campout. Mrs Reeves had booked the Traralgon High School Camp and deposit has been forwarded. Charge to be \$5.50 per person per night.

Noe Education Centre advised that a charge of \$5.00 per night for the hire of hall to be levied from September.

Miss Galbraith advised that a supply of her new book will be available at a reduced cost. Contact Secretary if interested in purchasing.

Arrangements finalised for October excursion.

Edward Hunter Reserve Committee. Mr Ken McDonald is willing to be our representative on this committee, but is concerned that he is unable to attend many meetings due to shift work,. Mr S.Mathews is interested and will also attend these meetings on our behalf.

1984 Programme.

Several suggestions had been received from members and a meeting will be held to arrange the programme.

Expenses re the duplicator and typewriter as well as increased postal charges were discussed. Decided that we could hold the price of the Naturalist at \$6.00 for this year at least.

However in view of the charge being made for the meeting room it was decided to recommend that an increase in the General membership be made. Naturalist \$6.00 Single \$8.00 Family \$10.00

This increase if acceptable to members will be moved at the Annual Meeting in MARCH 1984.

Naturalist Suggested that members be kept up to date with more of the Club matters eg. Submissions, Forum, Edward Hunter, Crinigan Res. Wirilda, Car Stickers etc.... Snippets of information be printed in the Naturalist as things happen and not wait for a report at the Annual Meeting. It is hoped that members would appreciate the information and work done by members on their behalf within the community. Also reduce time taken at annual Meeting.

A drive for more participation by General members in forwarding articles for the Naturalist.

Conservation Co-ordinator. Copy of Forum's submission on Kinhill study. Copy of Gormandale's submission on Kinhill.

KLetter from Vic Brown Coal Council thanking us for allowing summary of our submission to be published.

State Conservation Strategy Discussion Paper and letter suggesting approaches re comments to be presented by 18th November.

Mrs Thompson had written to Ministry of Conservation stating that after expenses and time devoted to research for submissions that all environmental statements re these submissions should be free to participants in the study. We should not have to pay to study these documents.

The next business meeting will be held at the home of the Thompsons Downies Lane Traralgon South at 7.30 pm on 26th October.

Supper roster October 28th

Mrs PLant Mrs Larsen.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

CLUB.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

HON. SECRETARY.

Mrs I. Peterson
14 Barry Street,
Morwell 3840
'phone 342129

MEETINGS.

7.30pm. on 4th Friday
each month, at
Regional Education
Centre, Kirk St. NOE

SALE F.N.C.

Mr Maclean
P.O. Box 302
SALE 3850
'phone 458238

8.00pm on 1st Friday
each month, room 13
Continuing Education
Centre, Raymond Street
SALE

TRARALGONE F.N.C.

8.00pm. on 1st Friday
each month, at L.V.
Education Building
Kosciusko St. School.
TRARALGON

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Mr J. Brooks
3 Nobel Street
WARRAGUL 3820
'phone 231563

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
Public Library.
WARRAGUL

BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.

Mr E.V. Barton
13 Turnbull Street
BAIRNSDALE 3875
'phone 523792

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
C.W.A. Hall
BAIRNSDALE

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Hon Editor.

Mrs L. Padfield
99 Chamberlain Rd.
NEWBOROUGH 3825

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Lalrobe Valley Naturalist



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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday November 18th
Speaker: Mary Huxley and Jean Merson
"Grevilleas"

This is the last meeting for the year.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Meeting: Friday November 25th
Film: "Diverse and Curious Flora"
Excursion : Saturday November 26th to Morwell
National Park.
Meeting Place: Morwell Nat. Park at 7.30pm.

Christmas Beakup: Saturday December 17th at Bundilla.
Bundilla is one mile from where you turn off the Moe Thorpdale Rd
at the Coalville Tennis Courts. There will be signs to guide you.
Barbecues, boiling water available and Shelter if necessary.
Mr and Mrs ringin are looking forward to seeing us all then.

January Campout: January 27th - 30th 1984.
Traralgon High School camp at Licola.

Traralgon F.N.C. DEcember 2nd.
Dinner Meeting to be arranged.

ROADS AND THE LANDSCAPE

In 1952 Edna Walling wrote in the introduction to her book "The Australian Roadside" : "Could any excitement surpass the thrill of discovering the exquisite and elusive beauty to be found on the roadsides, in the open country and through the forest? I confess to an overwhelming love of the roadside and the things to be discovered there".

Her message was clear then, that roads should disturb the natural landscape as little as possible and that any new roads and roadside development should be designed to be compatible with the natural landscape resource of the district.

Since then, millions of words have been printed about roads and the landscape, and the relationship of the man-made landscape to the natural landscape. There has been a recent explosion of expertise in the field of Landscape Architecture. Techniques exist for managing the visual resource of the landscape. However, despite all this supposed understanding, progress still involves the removal of roadside trees, or worse, the maiming of them. Why have we not been able to do better? Maybe the issue is not of techniques and expertise and printed words, but something which Winty Calder addresses several times in her book "Beyond the View".

Man's treatment of his surroundings depends largely upon the customs and conventions of his culture. What we need now is a culture that promotes harmony between man and the world's landscapes as well as harmony between one person and another. These ecological harmonies are very closely related; we should aim to mingle them in each other."

Perhaps, if we stop using so much paper for such discussion as this, and start looking more directly at our land and caring for it and each other more directly, then we may begin to do better. Amen.

Presented to the Roadsides Conservation Committee by Helen Stafford, representing the Landscape Committee of the National Trust of Australia(Victoria) 8th June 1983.

RECENT PLANT DISCOVERY

The Golden Dodder, *Cuscuta tasmanica*, was a new record for Wilson's Promontory when discovered there on a club boat excursion a couple of years ago. It has been recorded again growing round a swamp on Yanakie in the vicinity of Cotter's Lake. It is a lowly twiner on grass and weeds.

E. Lyndon.

EXCURSION 27/8/83.

Misty rain was falling as we gathered at Morwell civic Centre on Saturday 27th August for our monthly excursion. The morning was to be spent at Crinigan Rd. Reserve, Morwell.

The reserve consists of approximately 100 acres (40.46Ha) of land adjoining the Morwell golf Club. The area is Crown Land and under the jurisdiction of the S.E.C. and has only recently been proclaimed a Reserve after negotiations with Morwell Shire and as from August 24th 1983 has been gazetted in the Victorian government Gazette with bylaws governing its use.

During our meander through the reserve members found the following orchids and wildflowers blooming. Nodding Greenhood, Blunt Greenhood, Maroon-hood Greenhood, Tall Nodding Greenhood, Tall Greenhood, Blunt Greenhood, Gnat Orchid, Trim Greenhood, Helmet Orchid. We found dainty Scented Sundews flowering along with Tall Sundews. Blue Love Creeper, Appleberry, Hardenbergia, Pimelea, white heath (impressa), Bearded Heath, Bossiaea, Black-anther Flax-lily. There were clumps of dainty rock Fern, Lace Fern and areas of Maiden Hair Fern. Some beautiful patches of fungi and a little group of Cordyceps (7 in all) in early stages of development which were velvety to the touch.

We all agreed that this was a lovely reserve and had only given ourselves enough time to skim the surface of what the reserve had to offer by way of flora.

After lunch we moved on to Traralgon City Offices where we were met by Mr Ryan, Manager of Planning for the City of Traralgon. From here we were taken on an excursion around Traralgon to various developments that have recently been augmented or are in progress for the Landscaping and beautification of the City of Traralgon.

Our first stop was the Kay Street Offices. Here in the commercial zone we saw an example of planning for new office buildings which were set 3 metres back from the roadway and have this area tastefully paved and planted with native shrubs, to give an inviting and welcoming atmosphere.

Moving on to Ryan's Hotel, again where the theme of native planting has been followed, we were shown and told of the work put in by Mrs Vogt of the hotel. This is an effort to beautify the area making an attractive space around the hotel carpark.

Next we went to the Hotham Street Offices and this area although quite attractive was showing signs of how important it is to choose the right type of tree or shrub for landscaping purposes and also the care that needs to be taken in placement of such shrub or tree.

We then visited the recently finished Half Case Complex on the corner of Breed Street and Princes Highway. Parts of the landscaping here are striving to become established because of the physical position.

EXCURSION 27/8/83

The area being on a slope and in a very open position catching high winds which play havoc with growth, plus the fact that one also has media problems ie. vandalism to contend with in a development such as this.

Leaving the business area, we then travelled in an easterly direction visiting Christensen Close. Here an experiment is being undergone with - mass plantation of natives- along with the involvement of children helping during the planting process. It was felt that if school children were involved in the planting they would not be so prone to vandalize areas and despoil beautification. Work being done in the towns Christensen Close also provides a passive recreation area.

On then to Park Lane Caravan Park which is located on a comparatively flat area of land. Here the owner has raised quite large mounds of earth into graceful slopes before planting with shrubs and trees. The theme of planting being three native species combined with deciduous planting, providing a restful and pleasing approach.

Going along to Sunset Waters Development where the natural undulation has been utilized for the development of an ornamental lake. We find that roads have been laid out on a contoured basis, housing blocks appear to have been surveyed to blend in on the same basis to promote a very pleasing residential area interesting and restful.

We stopped at the "Body Line Health Studio", a building constructed on angular lines but softened by mounded and curved landscaping using native shrubs.

Heading for the industrial area at the Eastern approach to the town, we were shown an example of the effect of incorrect planting of certain native shrubs and trees on difficult terrain. This proved that it is very necessary to plan and choose trees and shrubs carefully in any landscaping project.

We then visited Blue Circle Cement Company, adjacent to the Railway Line in the Eastern sector of the town. Passing C.I.G. with its pleasing landscape we turned right past the old cattle trucking yards and came upon Blue Circle, a delightful area of landscaping using clean line buildings, paving approaches and again we had built up beds of flowering native shrubs, intermingled with a few exotics.

Entering Argyle Street we were then shown preparation work in progress for the beautification of the Eastern entrance to the City.

Visiting a block of flats under construction, Mr Vyān explained to us that development of flats, now has to include landscaping design before a Certificate of Occupation is granted.

The last area visited on our excursion around Traralgon was to view a property known as the Old Railway Reservoir which adjoins land ceded by Hobson Park Hospital Authority to the Traralgon City, linking these two properties together one has an area of approximately 40 acres (16 ha).

URBAN LANDSCAPING.

contd...

4. List of Specimen Trees Mr Ryan also intends to prepare a list of suitable specimen trees for peoples gardens and nature strips. The list would give relevant details of the trees and direct the public to an identified tree they could view.

5. Guide to Landscaping Developers.
Such a guide would list both suitable and unsuitable plants for various locations. Examples of the type of submission required from developers for various urban developments would aim to assist in obtaining a high standard of submission.

6. Tree Planting Encouragement.
It was intended to encourage the public to plant trees and shrubs. Mr Ryan said one of the best ways to do this was to give away suitable plants from the Councils Nursery.

7. Pedestrian Mall. Finally in Mr Ryan's strategy Plan was a Pedestrian Mall. Malls are very expensive to construct and maintain. The important aspect of building a mall is that it must come alive on the first day it opens. More community support will be required before a mall can be achieved in Traralgon.

D.Wilbraham.

Mr John Hawker, Project Officer for the Register of Significant Trees, has prepared a list of trees which are on the Register and are located on roadside reserves. The list includes Classified and Recorded trees. Copies of this list are available from the roadsides Conservation Committee, c/- Ministry for Conservation.

P.O.Box 41, East Melbourne 3002.

EXCURSION 27/8/83

contd....

Mr Ryan feels that this land, with its sweeping undulation, water aspect and native vegetation would prove to be a valuable asset to the city for development as an area of passive recreation in the form of a Botanical Park. As Field Naturalists we will watch the future development of this area along with the landscaping progress in the City of Traralgon with continued interest.

Our thanks to Mr Ryan for a very inter-sting and informative afternoon and Traralgon members particularly felt they learnt a lot about the development of their home town.

Pearl Reeves.

PS. refer "L.V.Naturalist" May issue Committee report.
Letter to Traralgon Council re Old Railway Reserve and Botanical Park and reply from City.

NATURE NOTES.

On the September excursion the question was asked why the Thryptomene on Sperm whale Head is called Ribbed Thryptomene. The botanical name is Thryptomene micrantha. Micrantha means bearing minute flowers. Thryptomene is a Greek word meaning made small; but there is a difference of opinion in the literature as to what this alludes. Black in his "Flora of South Australia" states it alludes to the lowly stature of most of the species, while Sharr in "Western Australian Plant Names and their Meanings" says it probably refers to the small flowers.

The common name 'Ribbed' applies to the calyx which is 10 ribbed.

Miss Galbraith tells us in her book that this species grows in Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and N.S.W. and Dr Willis adds it is restricted in Victoria to Sperm Whale Head and Dutson Downs.

On Rotamah Island we saw many Bulbine Lilies and the question arose as to how it got its name. Sharr in the above publication states the generic name Bulbine is a name used by Pliny (Caius Plinius Secundus). Pliny lived 23 AD to 79 AD and wrote a major work titled 'Natural History' in 37 books. Amongst other things he discussed 1,000 plants and so he exercised a great influence upon the names by which plants were known in the Middle Ages. Pliny used the name Bulbine for the 'Star of Bethlehem', Ornithogalum umbellatum, which looks similar to the Bulbine Lily but is white in colour. They both have bulbous roots. The species name 'bulbosa' applies to these bulbous roots as many of our native lilies have tuberous roots. So we can see why Robert Brown gave our lily its botanical name.

Bon Thompson.

Queensland Notes. Keriot Opal Fields north of Cunnamulla Q. August 1983. It is very satisfying to notice the portulacor, Pink purslane, and think it looks like fat purpley grubs in a bunch on the ground and look up in your book and see the apt description "tight little sausages". Also dodonaea bushes, three of which are here. The page of leaf shapes and characteristics is so clear. I was able to identify each one from that page and the clear descriptions Dodonaea boronifolia, very colorful fruits making crimson bushes and Dodonaea cuneata along the dry creek beds, yes, some dry already and only flow when it is raining or shortly afterwards as the area is very sloped and rocky. Then the very pretty Dodonaea like a pink rose bush at a distance, D. viscosa with large soft pink hops. There are acres of pale-green to white "long-tails" Mulla Mulla. Ptilotus polystachyus looking very beautiful under the gidgee and mulga trees. The silvery Brigilow is out in flower, golden puffs among the silver, a very lovely tree.

Frances Gladstone.

from a letter to May Galbraith.

Congratulations to Ann Morton who is now Mrs Guinness, readers may remember Ann who has written articles about Weipa.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 26th 1983.

January Campout. The use of Traralgon High School premises has been obtained. Cost will be \$5.50 per person per night. Some people will be going on Friday 27th and leave for home on Monday 30th January. Pensioners cost \$4.00. Primary school children free. Please contact Secretary if intending to attend campout.

Copies of Miss Galbraith's book available at reduced cost. Secretary has details.

Decided that at the Annual Meeting in March that an increase in Club Subscriptions be made. Naturalist cost \$6.00 (no increase)

Single Member \$8.00 (\$1.00 increase)

Family Member \$10.00 (\$2.00 increase)

Programme 1984 has been arranged and will be in the hands of the printer as soon as possible, and will be included in January Naturalist.

F.N.C.V. trip to King Island 12th - 19th January 1984

The party will fly to Currie Thursday morning where accommodation has been booked at the Boomerang Hotel on a room only basis. Cost for motel and airfare is \$300.00. A bus will be chartered on the island for day excursions and we hope to have some of the King Island Naturalists on some of the trips. Deposit of \$50.00 should be paid to Excursion Sec. when booking. Contact Marie Allender 19 Hawthorn Ave Caulfield 3161.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$193.60

Correspondence. City of Traralgon re Indigenous Trees.

Sale F.N.C. request for speakers. Roadside Conservation Committee re leasing of areas. L.V. Regional Library Bookmarks.

Publications received. Geelong Naturalist. MT. Naturalist. Vic Naturalist. S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group Newsletter.

Telephone List to be reviewed. Please notify President if you wish to be on the list. This is so that members can be contacted for extra excursions, cancellation etc..

Library. The Club has an extensive library and a catalogue is to be compiled. Mrs. Thompson and helpers are organising this project.

Noted with pleasure that Mrs Lyndon has been made Life Member of F.N.C.V. This honour is conferred after 40 years membership.

Conservation Co-ordinator. Assistance given to Sale F.N.C. in effort to reserve Longford Cemetery area.

Ministry of Conservation thanking us for Submission re Overburden.

Morwell River Diversion. Reply from S.E.C. and request for comments.

Supper Roster November 25th. Mrs Wall Miss Galbraith.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday November 23rd at the home of Mrs Huxley in Narracan. Mrs Huxley requests early arrival to inspect the garden.

A Film has been obtained for showing at November Meeting. It is relevant to the excursion to Morwell National Park.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

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LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

HON. SECRETARY.

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MEETINGS.

7.30pm. on 4th Friday
each month, at
Regional Education
Centre, Kirk St. NOE

SALE F.N.C.

Mr Maclean
P.O. Box 302
SALE 3850
'phone 4582 38

8.00pm on 1st Friday
each month, room 13
Continuing Education
Centre, Raymond Street
SALE

TRARALGON F.N.C.

8.00pm. on 1st Friday
each month, at L.V.
Education Building
Kosciusko St. School.
TRARALGON

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Mr J. Brooks
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WARRAGUL 3820
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8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
Public Library.
WARRAGUL

BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.

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8.00pm on 3rd Friday
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C.W.A. Hall
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COMING EVENTS.

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

No Meeting in December
Merry Christmas to all members.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

Christmas get-together

December 17th Afternoon at
Coalville.

Signs along roads to Ringin's Property "Dundilla".
Hope to see you there.

January Campout

January 27-30

Traralgon High School Camp at Licola.

A Happy Christmas to all readers from the Editor.

EXCURSION TO THE GIPPSLAND LAKES.

Approximately 40 Field Naturalists and friends gathered at the jetty at Paynesville at 10.00 am on Saturday 24th September, to embark on the boat excursion on the Gippsland Lakes.

As we went aboard we were welcomed by the boat captain and his wife, Dave and Ros, Shelton, and were soon under way and heading toward Rotamah Island.

We went ashore at the island, and for over an hour explored a track leading eastward from the old white homestead near the jetty. Mrs Joy Johnstone, who had been the guest speaker at our meeting on the previous evening, was kept busy identifying the birds that we saw and heard along the way. Colourful Rainbow Lorikeets were among the first to be seen, and later we had a splendid view of a White-breasted Sea-Eagle as it perched high on a tree. We saw this bird, beautiful in flight, several times throughout the day. Kangaroos and Emus roamed about, appearing unconcerned by our presence.

Returning to the boat with good appetites, most of us decided to remain aboard to eat as the weather was a little uncertain, but some enjoyed their lunch in sheltered spots on the shore.

After lunch we assembled on the verandah of the homestead where we were greeted by Wardens Alan Burbidge and Julie Rains. Julie spoke to us briefly about their work on Rotamah, although the island is part of the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, Julie and Alan are not Park Rangers, but are employed by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, to whom the buildings on the island are leased. Rotamah is now well known as a Bird Observatory, although activities and research relating to other branches of Natural History are also carried out. For example, six to eight courses are provided each year for amateurs in subjects such as Bird Observing, Painting, Mammal Trapping, Nature Photography, etc.. The RAOU cannot afford to buy the property, but can lease, and survive on visitors fees. Rotamah therefore will remain as an Observatory for as long as visitors interested in Natural History continue to come.

We returned to the boat and travelled to Point Wilson on Sperm Whale Head, where we disembarked to enjoy another nature walk with more birds and plants to study and admire. Three Orchid species were found - the Nodding Greenhood, Blunt Greenhood and Mosquito Orchid. Other plants included Pine Heath, Coastal Beard-heath, Daphne Heath and Dotted Heath-myrtle.

We went aboard again for the last time and returned to Paynesville where everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable day.

June Lubcke.

BIRD WATCHING.

Address by Mrs Joy Johnstone

Mrs Johnstone explained how bird-watching becomes a permanent part of your life, not just when you are specifically bird-watching. You find yourself always listening for birds and watching for movement in trees, bushes etc. These become unconscious automatic reactions. You pick your holidays with birds in mind and when working in your own garden tend to plant species to attract birds.

Equipment necessary is a pair of binoculars - Mrs Johnstone started with 10/50 size and later progressed to wide field 8/40, especially for rain-forest bird-watching. A notebook is also necessary to write down details for identification as it is very difficult to remember all the necessary details. It is a very challenging hobby, but it is also very satisfying and enjoyable.

Mrs Johnstone then showed beautiful slides of birds and gave us a running commentary on each. Many of the slides she had taken but so many were purchased by the East Gippsland branch of the Bird Observers Club from the parent branch in Melbourne.

Mrs Johnstone took different habitats in Australia and discussed the birds of those areas. She commenced with birds that will come to the household gardens; in Gippsland, with a little encouragement. These included the superb Blue Wren; the New Holland Honeyeater which makes a nest of twigs and will feed avidly on prepared food in wet weather when rain has washed the nectar from the flowers; the Red Wattlebird, the biggest mainland Honeyeater and named after the red wattles on its cheeks; the Yellow-faced Honeyeater; white-eared Honeyeater; the Eastern Spinebill; the white-plumed Honeyeater, which is common in Morwell at the moment; and the Crimson rosellas. Rainbow Lorikeets visit gardens in Lakes entrance.

Eastern Rosellas are opportunists and a series of slides showed a nest and young in the hollow in a fence strainer post. Spotted Pardalotes have a three note call but it is one note from one bird and two notes from another. The Grey shrike-thrush will nest around houses and slides showed one nesting on paint tins. Magpies also take up residence in gardens.

Kookaburras are less common today as land, including roadsides, is cleared leaving less litter to harbour the skinks, etc. that provide their food. They are pirates in that they will take a smaller bird from a flock on the wing or babies from other bird's nests.

Mrs Johnstone suggested if we see dead birds on the road to stop and collect them as they can be rare species. The museum will appreciate receiving them.

Among the water-birds were Large Egret, Little Egret, Cormorants, Four Pied Oyster-catchers with baby hiding in a plant of Sea Rockets on the beach. Bird remains washed up on the beach are another source of information.

contd...pp.

BIRD WATCHING. contd...

For example the little White-fronted Tern was only known to breed in New Zealand but now it is known that a few nest on Bass Strait islands. Some young birds spend Autumn and Winter in S.E. Australia after arriving in exhausted condition. Dead Specimens have been sent to the museum. Birds on rocks at Cape Conran and slided og Wingan Inlet illustrated the beach habitat. Interesting observations should be reported- for example a Scrub Wren was seen dust bathing although water was nearby.

Some birds inhabit specialised environments while others, like the Grey Fantail and Grey Shrike-thrush occupy several different habitats. Others like the Sacred Kingfisher migrate, arriving Gippsland about now (September) and leaving in February. It nests at the southern most point of its range.

Callistemon citrinus and the Mealy Stringybark on the Bruthen Road is one habitat of the Sacred Kingfisher, Wood Swallows and others for portion of the year.

Birds of the swamps included the Pied Stilt, Reed Warbler, Black-fronted Dotterel, Little Grassbird and Golden-headed Fantail Warbler.

Gippsland Waratah area harbours several haoneyeaters including Leewin, New Holland, Eastern Spinebill and Crescent Honeyeater.

The Eastern whipbird is more often heard than seen but will come to gardens near bush for bird seed or wholemeal bread.

In wet gullies you find golden Whistler, Wonga Pigeons, Olive Whistler, Rufous Fantail, Ground Thrush, Lyrebirds and Pilot Birds. Teh Gang Sang Cockatoo is seen above forest gullies.

A profusion of Poached-egg Daisies illustrated the habitat of the dry country. Here the birds included the Pied Butcher-bird; Red-rumped Parrots with the very colourful male and the inconspicuous brown female; Tawny Frogmouth; Spotted Bowerbird from Central N.S.W. with a call just like the bark of a fox; Zebra Finch and the Mallee Fowl.

Mrs Johnstone included some other sights seen while bird-watching. The Potoroos from her own garden who came after the food set out for the birds, Brush-tailed possums encountered on a campout, Blue-tongued Lizard, tortoise, Eastern Swamp-rat and goannas. Birds and animals become very tame in areas where they are protected -eg. in National Parks.

Some of the hazards of bird-watching include snakes and ticks. The evening concluded with some special places visited and the birds seen, which included the Double-barred Finch near Nowra, Scrub Turkey in Lamington National Park and Regent Bower-bird in Green Mountains. Last slides of all were some habitat shots taken near Iron Range in far Cape York Peninsula, and one of the flowers of Grevillea pteridifolia dripping with nectar from which Mistletoe birds were seen feeding.

Bon Thompson.

ALPINE FLOWERS.

The following are some flowers we can expect to see on the campout in January.

ORCHIDS.

Summer Greenhood- Pterostylis decurva About 22cm high, hood with long thin point and "ears" upright. Tongue slightly protruding. No leaves at flowering time.

Alpine Leek-orchid- Pras. phyllum alpinum. About 15 cm high, greenish brown, tongue pointing upwards, narrow flowers. Leaf like Leek.

Mauve Leek-orchid- Prasophyllum suttonii about 15-30cm high, white with pink to reddish markings. Tongue pointing upwards with white wavy edges.

Common Bird-orchid- Chiloglottis gunnii. Twin leaves with smooth edges and flower sitting between them. Flower brownish green.

Scented Sun-orchid. Thelymitra aristata. Blue with centre column (mid lobe) brown and bent forward over lateral lobes of column with toothbrushes on ends.

Dotted Sun-orchid- Thelymitra ixioides. Blue usually with dots, mid lobe crested like a crown, lateral lobes with "mops" on ends.

Veined Sun-orchid- Thelymitra venosa. Blue veined dark blue, column lobes without tufts but with each lobe narrow and coiled.

PEA FLOWERS.

Bushes Mountain Mirbelia- Mirbelia oxyloboides. up to 1.2m, orange and red flowers 4mm across in clusters on ends of branches, leaves small spreading and ovate, mostly in threes with recurved edges.

Alpine Shaggy-pea- Oxylobium alpestris. Orange flowers in dense clusters at ends of branches. Leaves 25-50mm by 5mm usually oval with recurved edges and fine points.

Leafy Bossiaea- Bossiaea foliosa. 30cm-1.2 m high, tiny leaves usually broader than long and notched at apex and opposite, flowers small and yellow.

Matlike. Matted Bossiaea Bossiaea buxifolia. Plants only about 15 cm high spreading and wiry, leaves stiff small and alternate, flowers yellow and red on end of branches.

DAISIES.

Bushes Large-leaf Daisy-bush- Olearia megalophylla. Dwarf shrub, leaves shining above and tough but hairy beneath 25-100mm by 25mm, flowers white long stalked but not many at ends of branches.

Moth Daisy-bush- Olearia erubescens. -Flowers white with very long stalks and usually only 3 "petals" but several flowers together.

Lattice Everlasting- Helichrysum hookeri. Tiny Yellow flowers, leaves also tiny green and pressed flat on the sticky stems giving the lattice effect.

Herbs Alpine Groundsel- Senecio pectinatus. -olden Daisy, large up to 50 mm on a stalk to 20 cm high, Leaves, usually lobes, in a rosette at base of flower stalk.

Alpine Podolepis- Podolepis robusta. Rosette of leaves, broad and smooth and light green up to 20cm by 25mm. Stem leaves and stems hairy.

Flowers golden yellow with several together at end of stem.

ALPINE FLOWERS.

contd...

Silvery Daisy-Celmisia asteliifolia. tuft of long green leaves up to 22cm by 25mm dull dark green above but silvery beneath. Leaves ribbed. Daisy white and large 30cm or more high, sometimes reddish colour in bud.

Chamomile sunray. Helipterum anthemoides. To 25mm white everlasting with outer bracts papery. Leaves 10mm narrow and blunt bluish green and up stems.

Small Bottle-daisy- Solenogyne bellioides. Rosette of thick toothed leaves 25-50mm by 5mm with some hairs, flower stalks stout with tiny button of greenish florets with no 'petals' or rays.

HEATHS.

Bushes Candle Heath Richea continentis. White flowers with group on end of stem. "Petals" fall off as little cap to expose stamens and style. Plant a spiky bush to 1.2m high with stiff narrow triangular leaves (stem clasping).

Mountain Beard-heath- Leucopogon suaveolens. 60 cm high, leaves with parallel veins, lighter beneath and 5mm long. flowers white balls with spreading bearded petals.

Matlike. Dwarf Heath- Pentachondra pumilo. Creeping plant creating carpet often on rocks. tiny leaves and tiny white flowers near end of branches, berries red.

MATLIKE PLANTS.

Ivy Goodenia- Goodenia hederacea. Loose mat, leaves with toothed margins, yellow flowers about 5mm on stalks, 5 petals with 3 above and 2 below meeting as lips at centre.

Silver Astelia- Astelia alpina. Tufts of stiff channelled leaves to 15cm longnarrowed evenly from 25mm base to blunt point. Leaves silver-backed but bright green above with long white hairs at base. flower cluster of small greenish brown at base of leaves. Fruit 5mm red berries.

Twin-flowered Knawel. Scleranthus biflorus. Bright yellowish green cushion-like plant, flowers in pairs tiny and yellow without petals.

White Purslane- Montia australasica. Matlike in alpine area but 15cm tall in Latrobe Valley, Flower 5 petals, white and leaves straplike but only 35mm in alpine area.

Alpine Stackhousia- Stackhousia pulvinaris. Cushion like plant, yellowish green, leaves straplike, very small. Flowers bright yellow, tubular singly amongst leaves.

Alpine Trachymene- Trachymene humilis. Mat of shining 3 lobed leaves flat on ground around root. Flowers in group 10mm across, tiny white like tiny cauliflower.

HERB. Hairy Carraway- Oreomyrrhis eriopoda. tuft of feathery grey-green hairy leaves. flower stems to 30cm high. Cluster of tiny white flowers each on stalk. Fruits dry purplish, rigid in circle round centre point where attached to stem.

ALPINE FLOWERS.

Plants of same species as down in Latrobe Valley but just differing in colour and size. Triggers, Violets, Vanilla Lilies, Prickly Starwort, Billy Buttons and some Feraniums.

Much of the above information is taken from Miss Galbraith's book "Collins Field Guide to Wildflowers of South-East Australia" and many are pictured in it.

More Alpine Flowers.

SHRUBS.

Alpine Bottlebrush- Callistemon sieberi to 1.2 m high, leaves less than 2cm. brushes short, yellow and on end of branches.

Mountain Heath-myrtle- Baeckea gunniana. leaves 3mm long, thick and aromatic. Flowers white 3mm amongst leaves like tiny teatree flowers.

Alpine Iceflower- Pimelea alpina. Very low shrub, bluish green opposite leaves 10mm long, flowers pinkish white at ends of branches in a cluster.

Alpine Pepper- Drimys xerophila. up to 90cm high, leaves under 2cm. arranged in rosette form round the stem, very bitter to taste. Flowers with two short petals.

Bon Thompson.

Botanical names used in this article are as listed in Miss Galbraith's book. Some names may have changed since printing of the book.

WILSONS PROMONTORY.

Wednesday morning after a night of gale force winds, rain, banging doors sheets of iron on the roof, and rolling rubbish bins and their lids, the weather was fine, cold and very windy. We decided to walk along the beach. We rugged ourselves up and put on gumboots or other suitable footwear and headed for Tidal River Brach, where we were greeted with a gale force wind which really did carry you along with it.

The sea was a sight with the rollers coming in, and i had always wanted to see it, as it was that day,,crashing against the rocks and sand, such a contrast to several days ago, when it was so calm and blue. We walked steadily along the beach in the direction of the coastal track to Oberon Bay and observed Sooty Oystercatchers, Silver Gulls and s Crow devouring a dead Mutton Bird. We noticed a lot of debris had been carried out to sea by the high tide of the night before, also the sea had cut right into the dunes and made a really high bank. On turning back we headed into a wind, which in places just about blew us off our feet. Pearl had a run to catch her glove, Bonnie her scarf, Ellen looked like one of the men from the Antarctic in her gear, but it did protect her from the gale. The wind was making whirly whirlies of the sand and Peg remarked that it was the way sand dunes were made also. The spray from the sea left salt on our faces. Returning to Tidal River we walked to the bridge, noting the colour of the rocks along the bank of the river.

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WILSONS PROMONTORY.

contd...

Through the Tea Tree, Sweet Bursaria B.spinosa, Kangaroo Apple Solanum aviculare, Wirilda Acacia retinodes were growing.

We decided that it was a most enjoyable and invigorating walk even if only mad dogs, field Naturalists and school children would venture along the beach on a morning like that.

Mary Huxley.

HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK.

A small group of friends went to Holey Plains State Park to have a look at the spring flowers. While travelling along Chessum Road very slowly we spotted a mature Koala sitting in the fork of a Scent Bark, Euc. aro-maphloia. His colour was a creamy grey, which we thought unusual.

After observing him for a while, the Koala started to move about, it stretched its fore legs wide apart holding on to the branches of the tree (this was when great interest was aroused by the party).

We noticed on the front of the Koala what appeared to be a slit about 70-100cm long and about 10cm below his chin, the slit did not appear to have any fur around the edge. None of us knew just what it was and all sorts of suggestions were put forward. Is it a fold in the skin? Is it a pouch? Is it a Koala with a cleavage? !

As we could not determine the sex of the Koala this added to our confusion, and we decided to go home and study "our books" and this is what we found:- extract taken from the Victorian Naturalist 51.JULY 1934.

Article by Sir Colin Mackenzie.

" In the male Koala, mesially placed on the ventral surface of the upper sternum, a coloured or stained area is noticed. A microscopic examination of the skin in the area reveals a peculiar type of alveolar gland which secretes a viscid milky fluid directly on the fur.

Frequently the Koala can be seen licking this area." Does anyone know why? Also in Victorian Naturalist 45. November 1928 an albino Koala was found in the Rosedale Road area.

Peg Wall.

A XMAS MESSAGE.

Give of your friendship
And you'll find its true
The blessings you scatter
Will come back to you.

For the coming Festive season I wish all members A merry Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Jim Wall. President L.V.F.N.C.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 23rd 1983.

22 Members attended the meeting held at the home of Mrs Huxley in Narra-can. All were able to admire the garden before the meeting.

JANUARY CAMPOUT. Charges are \$5.50 per night.

Pensioners and students \$4.00 under 12 no charge.

25 people have names on the list. Contact Secretary if interested.

PROGRAMME. All invited guests have agreed to speak, but some dates still have to be confirmed.

WILSON'S PROM. 15 members enjoyed a weeks holiday and some are hoping to go next year.

Arrangements for November meeting and excursion confirmed.

Film "Diverse and Curious Plants of Australia" available.

No December meeting but we will be at the property of the ringins at Coalville on Saturday December 17th afternoon and evening.

Bring afternoon tea, barbeque if desired. This is a very enjoyable social day when we have time to just talk to one another without the pressure of an excursion. Notices will be put up directing people to the property.

FINANCE. Treasurer reported a Bank Balance of \$177.03.

A count for repair to Duplicator to be paid.

CORRESPONDENCE. Mr Rowe re speakers. C.C.V. News.

Park notes (Wilson's Prom re lodges etc. Gipsy Point Lodge re special accomodation for naturalists. C.C.V. re General meeting and public meet.

ECOS. N.E. Naturalist (Tas) World Wildlife News. N.T. Naturalist.

SGAP Maroondah Group Newsletter. Arthur Rylah Institute papers re Gipps-land Lakes. Fund for Animals. BOC. re survey of Regent Honeyeaters.

S.E.C. advised re Seminar to be held 8 members to attend.

Rosedale Shire re Wildflower reserve.

Mr Wall reported that Mr and Mrs Brewster had donated two books about Norfolk Island to the library.

Cons. Co-ordinator. Mrs thompson reported that Ministry of Conservation had noted our comments re charges for copies of Environment Statements. WE are placed on the mailing list.

Further comments to be presented re Vic. Brown coal Study.

Draft cppy of submission for L.C.C. Murray Valley Study was read and well received. Mrs thompson said this was one of the hardest studies to understand and was due on Dec 2nd.

A 12 page submission had been submitted re the State Conservation Strategy. This was a mammoth task and took more than two weeks to research and compile.

Many thanks are due to Mrs Thompson for her efforts on our behalf.

The next Committee meeting will be held at the home of the Thompsons Downies Lane Traralgon South January 18th at 7.30 pm.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

Details of contributing Clubs are as follows:

CLUB.

LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.

HON. SECRETARY.

Mrs I. Peterson
14 Barry Street,
Morwell 3840
'phone 342129

MEETINGS.

7.30pm. on 4th Friday
each month, at
Regional Education
Centre, Kirk St. MOE

SALE F.N.C.

Mr Maclean
P.O. Box 302
SALE 3850
'phone 458238

8.00pm on 1st Friday
each month, room 13
Continuing Education
Centre, Raymond Street
SALE

TRARALGONE F.N.C.

8.00pm. on 1st Friday
each month, at L.V.
Education Building
Kosciusko St. School.
TRARALGON

WARRAGUL F.N.C.

Mr J. Brooks
3 Nobel Street
WARRAGUL 3820
'phone 231563

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
Public Library.
WARRAGUL

BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.

Mr E.V. Barton
13 Turnbull Street
BAIRNSDALE 3875
'phone 523792

8.00pm on 3rd Friday
each month.
C.W.A. Hall
BAIRNSDALE

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Due March 1st, Payable to Hon Treasurer

Mrs A. Stewart
P.O. Box 169
NEWBOROUGH 3825

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from
MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS. and should be addressed to

Hon Editor.

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